

# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVI

DENVER, COLORADO

Number 4

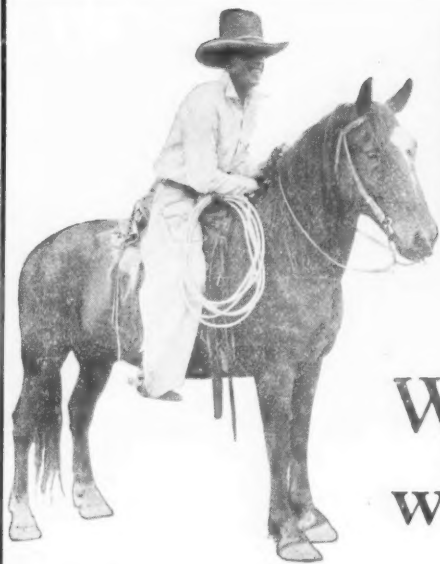


SEPTEMBER 1934

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK  
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

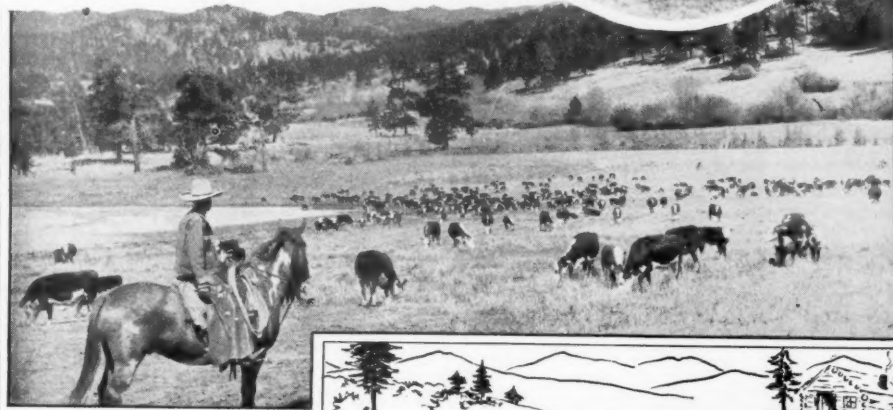
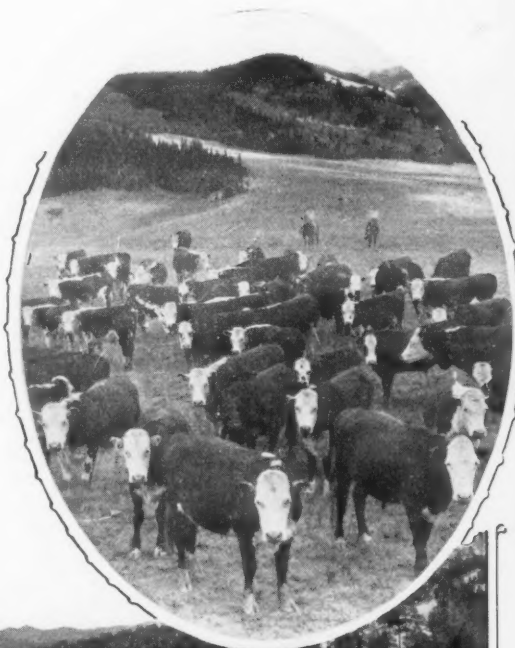
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

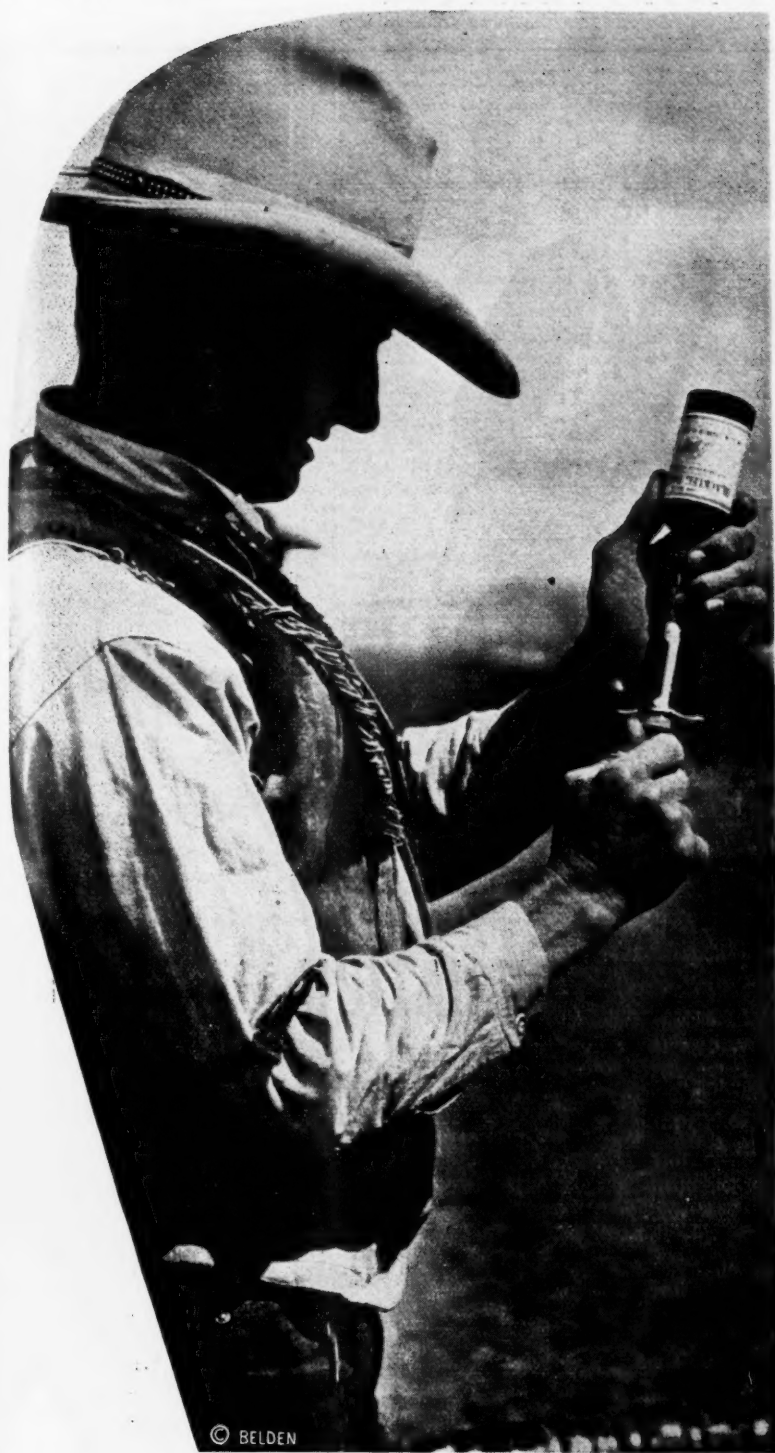


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*T. G. Lee*  
President



**ARMOUR AND COMPANY**





# THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVI

DENVER, COLORADO, SEPTEMBER, 1934

Number 4

## Alfalfa versus Cotton

BY WILL C. BARNES

*Phoenix, Arizona*

**C**OMING INTO THE SALT RIVER VALLEY in Arizona some twenty-five years ago, one passed through miles and miles of lovely green alfalfa fields. And a green alfalfa field is just about the richest green in the world.

A few years later these green fields were gone. In their place one saw nothing but dull-brown areas of cotton fields from which the crop had been harvested. The shady roads throughout the valley were pictures of desolation. The alfalfa had been plowed under ruthlessly to make way for cotton—the very latest thing in valley farming plans. The rapid transfer from one crop to the other was at that time profitable, but from an esthetic point of view, if nothing else, the valley suffered greatly from the change. Later on the farmers, too, were to suffer. But that is another story, yet to be told.

However, within the last few years the Salt River farmers have seen the error of their agricultural ways. Instead of the huge areas in cotton of those exciting years when “long staple” went to a dollar a pound and farm lands in the valley jumped to a thousand dollars an acre, the fields nowadays show a rather checker-board effect; green alfalfa interspersed with cotton, wheat, barley, lettuce, corn, and other staple crops making a very satisfactory color, as well as crop, scheme.

In those hectic cotton-raising days, when everyone had the worst possible case of cotton fever, the dairymen sold off their milk-cows (the best money-

makers they ever had), plowed up their alfalfa fields, and planted cotton. I said “sold their cows.” No, they simply gave them away, to get rid of them.

About that time (1910) government statistics show that there were close to 80,000 well-bred dairy cows in the Salt River Valley. At the height of the cotton boom (1921) there were not more than 30,000 at the outside. The people had to begin importing butter from California to supply the home demand. At the same time, the feeding and fattening of beef cattle for market—once a great industry—was at its lowest level for many years.

### Dairy Cow Coming Back

Today,\* with this change in farm procedure, the dairy cow has come back. Well-informed men agree that there are now fully 50,000 dairy cattle in the valley, with a constant upward trend. The fattening of range steers for market has likewise again become fashionable. Everywhere in the valley the fields are dotted with grazing steers, and the feeding pens are filled with them.

By and large, there are today some 35,000 steers on straight alfalfa, and about 25,000 more in the feed-lots. Mostly these are young steers—short yearlings and two's. But occasionally one runs into a whole field full of old, rangy, wide-horned, rather off-colored fellows that, of course, could come from nowhere but Old Mexico. They are inclined to be

\*This article was written early in 1933.—Editor.

wild, and carry their heads high when strangers are about. Looking them over, both in the feed-lots and in the alfalfa fields, one wonders at the nerve of the venturesome men who are handling these old boys. How they can hope to come out even, let alone make money, on such trash is a question. When one asks



SOME OF THE MEXICAN STEERS

them about the profit, they usually reply: "Well, if we don't make any great profit on the steers, we are ahead on the fertilizer—and that's a profit!" Most of these steers come from Mexican ranges, owned and run by Americans who have no local market and must send them across the line for a buyer. The great bulk of feeders in the valley, however, are unusually well-bred white-faced youngsters that will make money for their owners, if any cattle can.

#### Farming Specialists Keep Busy

The agricultural experts here, both state and federal, are a busy lot of men, keeping the valley farmers and stockmen on the jump, what with meetings of one kind or another about three days a week. At least once a week they announce a voyage around the farms—a regular motorcade—at which time they visit certain spots in the valley to look the crops over, see how some dairyman is working out a problem in feeding, or inspect the feed-lots. These are honest-to-goodness educational jaunts, and it is rather encouraging to note the number of real dirt-farmers who manage to go along on the trips.

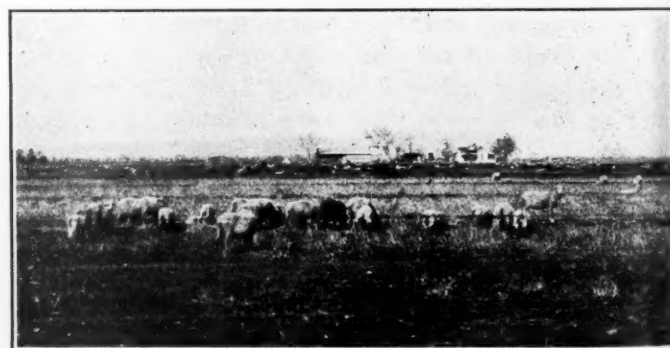
Also one discovers a large number of eastern and middle-western farmers, here for the winter, who, like myself, feel that they may pick up some worthwhile points at such times. These men are all successful farmers at home—or they could not be here—and their comments on what they see and hear are mighty interesting.

There are many large feed-lots in the valley in which as high as 1,500 young steers, often all in one brand and under one ownership, are being fed; not, of course, all in one lot, but usually they feed up to 500 animals in a single lot. Some get a mixed ration of cottonseed hulls and ground alfalfa; others, cotton cake, together with ground alfalfa and rolled oats or barley. At one feed-lot they were feeding straight corn silage and ground barley hay—with the seed-heads on, of course.

#### Feeding Methods Have Changed

The one thing which I could not comprehend in all these feed-lots was the manner of handling the feed. In my day, when we fed cattle here, we took the steers to the alfalfa stacks and "sicked" them onto it. The feeders of today are actually reversing all such practices by carrying the feed to the steers. Practically all the large feeders buy their alfalfa, not in the stack, but baled and delivered at the pens, where it is stacked away under great, open sheds. From these it is hauled once more to the grinding-mills. The same with the cotton products. Formerly everybody tried to feed just as close to the mills as he could, and thus save the handling of the feed. As with the alfalfa and other hay crops, the cotton products are trucked to the feed-pens, often at a considerable distance, and piled away under sheds close to the hay.

Nearly all the feeders have their own, rather small grinding-mills, run by electricity, right at the pens, the grinding being done from day to day just as the feed is needed, hauled direct from the grinder chutes to the feed-troughs in great trucks, and dumped automatically into the feeding-troughs as



SHEEP ON PASTURE IN SALT RIVER VALLEY

the trucks move slowly along the line. Certainly this does not seem to be the most economical way to handle such feeding plants, especially where the margin of profit is so slender; but the men responsible for the method seemed to be satisfied with it.

These feed-lots were busy places. Huge "cats" rambled in and out of the yards through the muddy lanes (for they have had worlds of rain down this



way), followed by two or three trailers loaded with feed, while quite as many horse-drawn vehicles were being used for the same purpose. The "cats" certainly waded through the mud, with their heavy trailers, without much trouble. But one wondered again if the horse, born on the farm and raised on home-grown feed, was not, after all, the cheapest power plant of today, everything considered. I was told that a "cat" driver gets \$75 to \$80 a month, while the Jehu who handles the horse-drawn vehicles gets only \$45 and \$50. Gasoline and oil from Oklahoma, with a state and federal tax of 6 cents a gallon on the gas, cannot be so cheap as alfalfa hay raised on the same farm which is feeding the steers.

Many of the young steers—some one's, some two's—were imported from Mexico. They often showed quite as good blood and growth as those from this side of the line. But how about the tariff of 2½ cents a pound, or about \$9 each for the calves and \$12.50 for the two-year olds? I could not get the figures as to the costs on these Mexican youngsters, but those who felt they knew said that the calves originally did not cost a cent over \$4 a head, and the two's about \$7.50 or \$8, at the line. Which seems to prove the value of the American tariff as a protection to our farmers and stockmen. Without it, the stockmen of Arizona and New Mexico would have to quit the range business.

### NO SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR LEATHER

BY FRANK H. FIEDLER

*Of the Calf Tanners' Association*

**L**EATHER-TRADE PAPERS HAVE RECENTLY CALLED attention to tanners' activities with reference to the increasing use of substitutes for leather. This matter is of the utmost importance, not only to tanners, but also to cattle-raisers, farmers, butchers, and packers. Facts presented so far are astounding and alarming, and deserve the most serious consideration.

Deliveries of sole leather in 1933 were 27.3 per cent less than in 1923.

Deliveries of belting leather were 63.4 per cent less.

Deliveries of harness leather were 58.9 per cent less.

Deliveries of bag and case leather were 63.2 per cent less.

Deliveries of upholstery leather were 81.8 per cent less.

Shipments of pyroxalin-covered cloth, used as substitutes for leather upholstery, bag leathers, and to some extent for shoe upper leathers, have increased from 24,600,000 yards in 1923 to 34,543,000 yards in 1933. The first three months of 1934 showed shipments of 11,542,000 yards.

The Tanners' Council Trade Survey Bureau has estimated that shipments of rubber and composition soles so far this year will replace sole leather on a basis of approximately 1,440,000 cattle hides per annum. This, however, does not show the entire picture, as there are other substitutes used in place of leather, such as box-toes, counters, and insoles in shoes, and imitation leather in hand-bags, trunks,

suitcases, and valises. One authority states that at least as much rubber and fabric belting is used as belting made from real leather. Belting-leather tanners during the past have produced leather from approximately 750,000 hides annually.

In shoe counters it is estimated that about 29,000,000 pounds of sole leather are replaced, which is equivalent to over 500,000 hides yearly. In shoe insoles it is estimated that somewhat over 40,000,000 pounds of leather are being replaced by substitutes.

At present there are no statistics showing the replacement of leather by rubber heels, rubber top-lifts, imitation bag, valise, and case leather substitutes; but no doubt the total replacement is stupendous. A committee of tanners has been appointed to investigate this substitution matter and report further.

The state relief organization of Pennsylvania is considering placing an order for 1,500,000 pairs of relief shoes on which composition or rubber soles were originally specified. The sole-leather tanners were in arms against this matter, and protested so vigorously that the matter has again been taken up and will be decided shortly.

Tanners have proved their case that composition and rubber soles are in no way the equal of solid sole leather. Shoes with composition soles either cannot be repaired easily or cannot be repaired at all. At one of the hearings in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a shoe-manufacturer, as witness for the composition people, replied in his testimony that, if he were to purchase only one pair of shoes a year, he would without doubt buy a shoe with a solid leather sole.

Composition soles are now produced in exact imitation of sole-leather color, and unquestionably many purchasers of shoes are misled and are under the impression that they have bought a pair of shoes with solid leather soles, only to find out later, to their detriment, that they have been deceived.

Nothing takes the place of leather, and for perfect sanitation and hygiene the foot should be shod with leather shoes. The imitation insoles soon wear out. We understand from the shoe-repair trade that, after shoes with imitation insoles have been worn for a short while, it is necessary to replace these substitutes with leather insoles.

It is of the utmost importance that shoe-buyers insist upon obtaining an all-leather shoe. The additional cost of real leather, as compared with imitation, is only slight. Despite the difference in original cost, the solid leather shoe is the cheapest in the end.

The leather-belting people have proved by scientific tests that a leather belt, having non-slipping properties, as distinguished from the rubber and fiber belt, likewise presents a feature of economy which is of interest to producers of leather and of raw material for leather.

In addition to cattle hides and skins in the manufacture of leather, domestic tanners also require immense quantities of tanning materials, which include vegetable and animal products, especially tallow, oils, and greases, so that a decline in the consumption of leather vitally affects the consumption of these materials, to the detriment of the agricultural interests.

It is incumbent upon cattle-raisers, farmers, butchers, packers, and tanners to see to it that an open market is maintained for cattle hides and skins, and vigorous, concerted action should be taken to bring this about. If all producers and consumers would insist upon all leather in shoes, and other articles which can be made from leather, there would, no doubt, ensue a greater demand for cattle hides and skins, thereby giving greater employment in this country and aiding in the return of prosperity.



The above contentions are born out by official government records. In data published by the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce, as quoted in a brief submitted by tanning and leather interests in the Pennsylvania case referred to above, the following appears:

"There are many grades of composition soles, according to the amount of rubber and filling material used. The same brand of sole may vary considerably over a period of time, due to fluctuations in the prices of raw materials.

"When service is considered in general, leather is more serviceable, on account of the many ways by which composition material may fail and have to be replaced before a leather sole would be worn out.

"Composition soles do not hold the shoe in shape so well as leather, and sharp objects will penetrate and cause discomfort. Composition soles often show a tendency to spread.

"Composition soles are from 10 to 30 per cent heavier than leather (making for the general fatigue of the wearer).

"There is a well-defined effect on the feet caused by wearing composition soles. This effect is expressed by: they burn the feet; they make the feet hot; they draw the feet.

"Leather is porous and allows the feet to breathe, while composition materials are air-proof."

Since 1923 the War Department has conducted extensive service tests to determine the comparative merits of leather versus composition materials for use in army shoes. All War Department specifications require leather soles.

From investigations made by the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture the following excerpts are quoted in the brief:

"Composition soles (fiber soles) . . . were not suited for the wear conditions to which subjected, owing to the development of defects, such as ripping, breaking, and chipping.

"Ripping from the stitches was a common fault of composition soles.

"Composition soles of all the makes tested bulged. Small pieces also frequently chipped off.

"With a large number of experiments, the following results were obtained: 22.7 per cent of composition soles ripped or broke, 28.8 per cent bulged, 15.2 per cent chipped or pieces broke off."

Further testimony, from the standpoint of hygiene, as to why all-leather footwear is preferable is presented in extracts from statements by orthopedists and dermatologists.

## UNITED STATES TRADE WITH PHILIPPINES

BY A. M. LOOMIS

*Secretary, National Dairy Union*

**T**HE WELL-KNOWN JOB OF "GETTING AT THE facts" in the matter of Philippine independence and American agricultural and other trade relations with the Filipino people apparently needs considerable attention. There is an alarming amount of biased propaganda now appearing in publicity channels.

It was to be expected that these misleading statements might appear, because there are admittedly several groups in the United States which may feel an adverse influence from the Independence Act already passed, as well as from the new internal-revenue tax of three cents a pound on the use of Philippine-produced coconut oil in the United States. Soap-manufacturers have used much coconut oil in the past, and other importers and fabricators use Philippine oils, tobacco, sugar, and other products. There are a few manufacturers who export a moderate amount of domestic products to the Philippine Islands, and a few minor capitalists who have investments there. There is also a small group of steamship

operators who carry trade commodities between the two countries. The expectation that these concerns would resort to propaganda to tell the public how bad Philippine independence will be for the United States, and what a great injustice the coconut-oil tax is to the poor Filipino farmers, has been realized.

Newspapers and magazines are apparently being "fed" freely with these inspired stories. A few of the stories deal with facts, but most of them only with half-facts. Almost without exception, all of them create the impression of importance much beyond the realities. Uniformly they ignore the interest of both the American farmer and the American taxpayer. That editors and publications accept and publish these stories at all is due to much misunderstanding of the commercial, financial, and economic facts, and in particular to four popular errors.

One of these errors is belief that there is a balance of trade in our favor between the two countries. Most people think that the United States in this trade has drawn profits and a flow of real money. The reverse is true. In our trade with the Philippine Islands the balance has always been against us. Since the end of the World War (1919-33, inclusive) there has been a total adverse balance of \$404,900,000 in thirteen years and a favorable balance of \$42,800,000 in two years, or a net adverse balance of \$362,100,000 over the fifteen-year period. Not only this, but for the same period the trade balances of the Filipinos with other countries have been in favor of the other countries, so that our hard cash paid to the Filipino merchants has been sent from the islands to England, Spain, France, Japan, and other countries.

It is also an error to believe that there is a great amount of United States capital invested in the Philippines. Those concerned with what trade there is, and wishing to maintain it, have let the impression go abroad that they, and others, have large capital investments there. The best statement of fact is that made by the Department of Commerce, which indicates a total investment of about \$150,000,000 of American capital in the islands, of which \$70,000,000 is in Philippine securities and \$80,000,000 in land, factories, etc. The American capital in sugar, coconuts and oil, fibers, tobacco, and lumber amounts to about \$70,000,000, as compared with an investment of Filipino capital in the same industries of over \$720,000,000 and of all capital in these industries of \$740,000,000. That is, the American industrial investment there is less than 10 per cent of the native investment.

Also, most people believe, incorrectly, that the Philippine Islands in some mysterious way have been profitable property for the United States to occupy and exploit. This error requires further analysis than space here permits before the facts can be shown. Not only, as shown above, have trade balances been uniformly unfavorable to us, but the government of the United States has poured American taxpayers' money into the islands, like pouring water down a rat-hole. Government records contain all the facts, but they are not generally nor specifically understood.

The fourth of the widespread errors of understanding is the most pervasive one, and perhaps the hardest one to meet and explain. It is that there is some relationship which has grown up between the Filipino people and our people which has created an obligation of protectorship or of special favor to them.

As a matter of plain common-sense and hard fact, nothing can be farther from the truth that either in law or in ethics do we owe anything of continued protectorship, or continued free-trade relationship, to the Filipino people. What we do owe them is the carrying-out, promptly and fully, of our pledges to them of freedom and independence, made when our

occupancy began, and repeated so often that no hue and cry of minor trade interests can now possibly prevail against them.

Agriculture's concern in this matter is purely as to trade balances. Imports from the islands are largely of products which can be produced on American farms, or which are in direct competition with such domestic farm products. In 1933 we exported to them wheat, cotton, milk, and tobacco products valued at \$17,490,000, and imported sugar, lumber, tobacco, oils, and fibers valued at \$77,898,000. This trade deficit is a matter of real importance to American agriculture.

If and when these four errors of understanding are corrected in the press and in Congress, there will be no difficulties in the way of a fair settlement of all relations between the two countries, on the basis of full freedom to the Filipinos and establishment of the same trade relationships which every self-respecting, independent nation would wish in dealing with another independent nation.

### STRANGE SHIFT IN LIVE-STOCK FIELD

BY FRANK D. TOMSON

*Wakarusa, Kansas*

**A**N ANNOUNCEMENT FROM A FEDERAL SOURCE IS to the effect that 10,000,000 commercial cattle will be taken from the drought areas, and most of them slaughtered for the people on relief. A limited number, not slaughtered, have been sent to sections, largely in the South, where pasture and feed could be provided.

Arrangements have been perfected in various states to assemble considerable numbers in localities where feed is available, in order to carry them along till they can be slaughtered, or distributed among the subsistence districts. In the latter case, useful cows, especially from an early milk and butter production standpoint, will be selected.

Then comes the problem of the purebred registered herds. From information that has been obtained, it appears that fully 60,000 will have to be included in the federal purchase allotment. At this date (August 29) the plan is to carry through the winter as many of these as can be taken over, turning approximately half the number, or around 25,000, over to the several Indian agencies, and the rest eventually to the subsistence program. This should not be accepted as the final arrangement. The program has not, at this writing, been definitely formulated—or, if so, it has not been announced. If it had, there would no doubt have to be more or less extensive modifications. It is safe to say that none of these cattle will ever again enter trade channels.

Considered from any point of view, it is a big undertaking—gigantic in its proportions and purpose. It is a new experience in the cattle industry, caused in part by the drought that has spread its blight over many states, and in part by the nation-wide urgency of the relief situation.

The announcement referred to at the outset indicated 5,000,000 sheep as the number that would be included in the relief movement and handled, presumably, through a similar set-up as the cattle.

When consideration is given to the reductions that have occurred among the registered herds, due to declining values during the past dozen years and the necessity of cashing in, and if the quota of 60,000 that are to be drawn out under the federal program is added, it becomes evident that available purebred breeding stock will be very limited. The quest of bulls for the ranches will be keen and far-reaching. It appears that the business of growing purebred cattle for the next

decade or so will be profitable, because of this scarcity of supply and the length of time required to replenish depleted stocks.

As business conditions improve and re-employment gets under way, as inevitably they must, the consumption of beef, mutton, and pork will increase. A better and broader market will stiffen prices. The outlook has an encouraging aspect. One phase of the industry that should be closely watched is the likelihood of an effort to bring into this country increased imports of Argentine beef. With Argentina holding the favorable position it does with respect to British beef requirements, our home demand should be protected for our own producers. The situation will have to be guarded energetically.

We must not overlook the fact that the improved quality of our output is due to the use of purebred sires. Now that the federal program has, or will, put into the discard some millions of inferior, mongrel-bred cattle, the industry is facing an opportunity of general and very decided importance. United States beef should represent a higher standard as soon as the business moves on its way after this extensive clean-up.

### FUNDS ASKED FOR REMOVAL OF PUREBREDS

**G**OVERNMENT DROUGHT RELIEF CONTEMPLATING only cattle for slaughter, no assistance has been provided in the case of purebred herds in drought areas which it is essential to save. To stop this gap, conferences were held at Kansas City late in July between representatives of purebred organizations and Dr. E. W. Sheets, director of drought relief, and later at Washington with officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

It was proposed that funds be furnished for the removal of about 10 per cent of the purebred herds to localities having surplus feed. A plan is now under consideration by the Farm Credit Administration for advancing \$3 a head for this purpose. It is believed that the sum of \$10,000,000 will be required to carry this class of live stock through the coming nine months.

### NEW FATS AND OILS BODY ORGANIZED

**C**REATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN Fats and Oils, composed of groups of producers and processors, has been announced. Among the organizations making up the membership are the following: the American Cotton Co-operative Association, the American National Live Stock Association, the National Peanut Growers' Association, the National Soy Bean Association, the Institute of Cottonseed Oil Foods, the Institute of American Meat Packers, and oleomargarine manufacturers. Headquarters will be at Washington, D. C.

The purpose of the institute is thus outlined by C. O. Moser, who has been chosen its first president:

"Confronted with what is the nation's largest carry-over of lard and beef fats, and cotton, peanut, and soya-bean oils, and with the unprecedented annual imports of coconut oil and other fats and oils, now in excess of our production of hog lard or cotton oil, there can be no result but ruinous prices for these products. The hard-pressed farmers and stockmen of the country, further injured, some practically financially ruined, by the devastating drought, with their backs to the wall, have set up the Institute of American Fats and Oils for the purpose of protecting their products against foreign competition, and against domestic discriminations in the sale of the healthful and wholesome finished product made from their raw materials."

Preliminary to taking over his new position, Mr. Moser



has severed his connection with the American Cotton Co-operative Association, which during the fifteen years of his leadership has developed into the nation's largest co-operative marketing association. Previously he had been active in the affairs of the dairy industry in Texas. He organized the Texas Farm Bureau Federation, and has been a leader in the setting-up of cotton co-operatives in his home state. In 1929 he was elected president of the American Institute of Co-operation, and during the same year was picked to head the National Co-operative Council.

F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, has been named vice-president of the institute.

### INCREASED USE OF DOMESTIC FATS AND OILS

**T**HE EFFECT OF THE FEDERAL EXCISE TAX OF 3 cents a pound on Philippine coconut oil, in connection with the declared policy of the Institute of Margarine Manufacturers to put the production of margarine on a domestic fats-and-oils basis, is seen from the following table, showing the principal fats and oils (in pounds) going into the manufacture of margarine for the three months April to June, inclusive, 1934 and 1933:

Month	Coconut Oil	Cottonseed Oil	Oleo Oil	Neutral	Margarine Made
April, 1934.....	10,558,700	2,072,758	1,105,143	614,664	18,022,514
April, 1933.....	12,787,620	1,382,199	1,108,046	775,200	20,438,567
May, 1934.....	9,396,082	3,368,619	1,333,543	531,586	18,265,992
May, 1933.....	12,271,599	1,491,170	1,097,681	754,129	20,031,493
June, 1934.....	4,518,239	3,662,855	1,980,437	639,927	13,985,669
June, 1933.....	8,677,729	1,361,826	1,041,549	680,684	15,530,276

Use of coconut oil in June, 1934, when the tax went into effect, was 51.9 per cent less than in May of this year, whereas that of cottonseed oil increased 9 per cent, and 48.5 per cent more oleo oil was used. It is also of interest to note the decrease of over 46 per cent in margarine production between April, 1933, and June, 1934.

### NO FOOD SHORTAGE NEED BE FEARED

**I**N SPITE OF THE RECORD-BREAKING DROUGHT, food supplies for the rest of the year will be sufficient for the larger part of our normal requirements, we are assured by the Bureau of Home Economics. There is no shortage whatever for two-thirds of the food products, and for the remaining items the prospective shortage will not exceed 5 to 10 per cent. This deficiency can easily be compensated for by simple shifts in the diet, we are told.

Estimated production and stocks on hand are large enough to meet the average demand in the case of grains, fluid milk and cream, citrus fruits, vegetables (other than potatoes and dried legumes), and sugar. These foods ordinarily furnish about 62 per cent of the calories and 57 per cent of the protein in the average diet. Of potatoes, dried legumes, fruits (other than citrus), poultry and eggs, lard, butter, cheese, and condensed and evaporated milk, furnishing 23 per cent of the calories and 18 per cent of the protein, we shall probably have from 90 to 95 per cent of the average domestic supply. Of tomatoes there promises to be a 20 per cent surplus.

The most marked effect of the drought is likely to be felt in meat, according to the bureau. Meat products, as a rule, supply about 15 per cent of the calories and 25 per cent of the protein in the average diet. For the rest of the current calen-

dar year, supplies of beef, veal, mutton, and lamb will be ample, owing to the heavy liquidation of live stock. Thereafter, however, the supply will depend in part upon the extent to which we shall be able, through freezing, curing, and canning, to conserve the product of the animals now being slaughtered as a drought-relief measure. After the next few months, when government purchases have ceased, it is estimated that slaughter of cattle and sheep will fall 15 to 20 per cent below normal numbers. Supplies of pork will likewise be reduced—possibly by as much as 30 per cent.

The big problem confronting us will be to see to it that there is an equitable distribution of available supplies, and that the necessary adjustments are intelligently made. Prices on foods of which production has been or will be reduced are bound to rise, but no one need go hungry.

The below table, prepared by the above-named bureau, tells the story:

#### PROSPECTIVE FOOD SUPPLY FOR 1934-35 COMPARED WITH NORMAL SUPPLY

(Estimated on Basis of Average per Capita Consumption from 1923-24 through 1932-33)

Commodity or Group	Aver. per Capita Consump. (Pounds)	Total Quantity Required (Million Pounds)	Prospective Supply Available for Domestic Consumption
Wheat.....	252.0	31,500	Normal or above
Corn, rye, and oats.....	93.6	11,700	Normal or above
Rice (milled).....	5.0	625	Normal or above
All cereals.....	350.6	43,825	
Potatoes, sweet potatoes.....	182.0	22,750	About 90% normal
Beans, peas, and peanuts.....	13.4	1,675	About 95% normal
Citrus fruits.....	35.3	4,412	Above normal
Other fruits and melons.....	184.9	23,113	About 90% normal
All other vegetables.....	144.0	18,000	Normal
Sugar.....	100.0	12,500	Normal or above
Vegetable shortening.....	9.0	1,125	Normal or above
Total vegetable food.....	1,019.2	127,400	
Fluid milk and cream.....	347.0	43,375	Nearly normal
Butter.....	18.0	2,250	About 90% normal
Cheese.....	4.6	575	About 90-95% normal
Condensed and evap. milk.....	15.4	1,925	About normal
Eggs.....	26.3	3,288	About 90% normal
Lard and margarine.....	16.4	2,050	About 90% normal
Pork.....	70.3	8,788	About 70% normal
Beef and veal.....	62.0	7,750	Above normal 1st quar.
Lamb and mutton.....	6.1	762	Below normal 2d half
Poultry.....	13.7	1,712	About 90% normal
Fish.....	11.0	1,375	About normal
Total animal food.....	593.8	74,225	

### COMPULSORY MEAT-GRADING AT SEATTLE A SUCCESS

**I**N OUR AUGUST ISSUE WE HAD AN ITEM TO THE effect that the city council of Seattle, Washington, had passed an ordinance making grading of all meats compulsory, and giving the city complete supervision over the inspection, handling, and sale of meats. At the Baltimore convention of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers last month the following resolution of indorsement was adopted:

"Resolved, That the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers does hereby indorse the plan for regulating the meat business made effective in Seattle, Washington, by ordinance making compulsory the inspection and grading, according to the U. S. standards, of all meat offered for sale in the municipality, the compulsory examination of all meat-handlers as to health and efficiency, and the installation in all places where meat is handled and sold of adequate equipment to insure sanitary conditions. Be it further

"Resolved, That each local branch of this association be requested to take necessary steps to obtain similar legislation in all states and cities in which they are located. Be it further

"Resolved, That this association urge upon the Department of Agriculture the need of universal inspection of live



stock and meats in all states, in order to eliminate unwholesome meats, and that a fund be set aside for assisting the states in carrying on such work by augmenting state funds; and that the Department of Agriculture be urged also to make standardized grading of meats compulsory throughout the country."

The passage of the Seattle ordinance was due to the efforts of I. W. Ringer, a director of the national organization, who has long been active in the promotion of higher standards in the meat industry. Mr. Ringer states that the Seattle plan has been a complete success, and that there now is not a single retailer in the city who would go back to the old system.

Portland, Oregon, is said to be considering the introduction of a similar ordinance.

### CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL WOULD STOP GRAZING ON DOMAIN

**O**PPPOSITION TO ALL NEW RECLAMATION PROJECTS the effect of which would be to increase surpluses of farm products, a request that all lands unsuitable for permanent habitation be taken out of farm production, and recommendation that the public domain be withdrawn from grazing, at the rate of about one-third a year, until such time as market conditions indicate that expansion of livestock production is necessary, were voiced in resolutions adopted by the National Co-operative Council, meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, in connection with the third annual conference of the American Institute of Co-operation.

The meeting also voted in favor of uniform regulation of both interstate and intrastate traffic by motor truck, and that trucks be required to pay their fair share of the cost of constructing and maintaining highways, and of the general support of the government.

### SECOND SERIES OF GRAZING CONFERENCES

**F**OLLOWING WHAT HE CALLS THE "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" series of conferences held during July and August in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado to get the views of stockmen on the administration of the Taylor grazing law and the creation of grazing districts on the public domain, Secretary of the Interior Ickes has announced that a second series has been arranged for the month of September, to cover another group of five states. The schedule, as planned, is as follows:

September 14—Albuquerque, New Mexico; Alvarado Hotel.  
September 19—Prescott, Arizona; Hassayampa Hotel.  
September 24—San Francisco, California; Palace Hotel.  
September 26—Reno, Nevada; Riverside Hotel.  
September 28—Klamath Falls, Oregon; Willard Hotel.

Oscar L. Chapman, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, will again have charge of the meetings.

Applications have already been received by the Department of the Interior for the establishment of more grazing districts on the public domain under the Taylor Act than can be organized in the next six months, according to Mr. Chapman. The first district to be created is in Colorado, and includes 140 townships in Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Garfield Counties, in the northwestern part of the state. It is to be named the "Taylor District," in honor of the author of the act, who represents this region in Congress.

### REGIONAL FARM BUREAU MEETING

**L**EADING MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN FARM Bureau Federation from the eleven western states held their annual regional meeting at Reno, Nevada, August 1 to 4, inclusive. Besides reports on various phases of their own activities from leaders in the various states, an extensive general program included the following: Addresses by Governor W. I. Myers and Production Credit Commissioner S. M. Garwood, of the Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C.; a report on the activities of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, by Chester C. Davis, administrator; papers on "Activities of the Eleventh Land Bank District," by Willard D. Ellis, general agent of the Federal Credit Administration, Berkeley, California; "The Frazier-Lemke Amendment," by Richard W. Young, general counsel of the FCA, Berkeley; and "Reclamation—Its Place in a Long-Time Agricultural Program," by Miss M. A. Schnurr, assistant commissioner of reclamation, Washington, D. C.; addresses on the Taylor Grazing Act by Governor Griswold and State Engineer Malone, of Nevada; and a discussion of the marketing agreements and direct buying of live stock, by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

Among the resolutions adopted, of special interest to stockmen, were the following:

Expressing unalterable opposition to any legislation that would interfere with present right of producers to sell their live stock, and of packers or feeders to buy it, at home or at any point en route to market where advantageous sale can be made, and urging American Farm Bureau Federation, prior to convening of next Congress, to call conference of live-stock producing interests to consider whether amendments to Packers and Stock-Yards Act for regulation of handling of hogs at concentration points in Corn Belt can be so drawn as not to impose burden on other sections of country;

Urgently opposing sale through commercial channels of any parts of carcasses of animals purchased by government under drought program;

Urging AAA or other federal agency to provide sufficient funds to pay for storage of hides from cattle bought by government in drought areas until market can absorb them in orderly manner;

Highly commending cattle-purchase plan worked out by Department of Agriculture, and asking that immediate action be taken to purchase sheep in drought areas on basis of \$2 per head;

Requesting Congress to amend Farm Loan Act so that family corporations may be eligible to borrow from federal land banks;

Asking that official announcement be immediately made by AAA that no general cattle program will be submitted to country until after drought emergency is past, and that no processing tax will be levied against cattle until a general program has been accepted by industry.

In addition to the above, resolutions were adopted on the Taylor Grazing Act practically identical with those passed at the Salt Lake City conference, found on page 6 of the August PRODUCER.

### FARM INCOME IN 1933

**A** RETURN OF 1.9 PER CENT ON THE CAPITAL OF farm operators for 1933, compared with a loss of 4.2 per cent in 1932, is shown by revised estimates of income from all products, both those produced for sale and those grown for use on the farm, just completed by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This compares with the 5 per cent on the net capital of operators earned in 1924—the highest return during the last decade.

Gross income from farm production for 1933 is estimated at \$5,985,000,000. In addition, \$271,000,000 of payments were

received under the Agricultural Adjustment Act; making a total gross income of \$6,256,000,000, as compared with \$5,331,000,000 in 1932. Estimated operating expenditures for 1933 were slightly larger than in 1932, being \$1,463,000,000 in 1933 and \$1,455,000,000 in 1932.

After deducting total production expenses of \$2,737,000,000, farmers in 1933 had \$2,525,000,000 cash income left. This was a gain of more than \$1,000,000,000 over the previous year.

The value of all land and buildings, estimated at \$31,655,000,000, and comparing with \$30,306,000,000 a year earlier, showed an increase for the first year since 1929, and reversed an almost continuous decline since 1920.

These figures should not be confused with cash income from farm marketings, or crops actually sold.

### LARGE SUMS BEING DISBURSED UNDER ADJUSTMENT PLANS

**R**ENTAL AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS co-operating in the government's crop-adjustment plans for 1933, 1934, and 1935 will amount to a probable total of \$779,402,000, it is estimated by officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Of this sum, approximately \$231,100,000 will be disbursed under the cotton program, \$200,600,000 under the wheat program, \$306,000,000 under the corn-hog program, and \$41,702,000 under the tobacco program.

Up to August 25, \$282,882,519 had been distributed, by commodities as follows: cotton, \$152,510,794; wheat, \$67,781,951; corn-hogs, \$46,815,989; and tobacco, \$15,773,786. In the twenty-four states where the drought has destroyed crops these payments constitute practically the only source of income in the case of many farmers, Chester C. Davis, administrator of the act, points out.

### DENVER TO BE HEADQUARTERS FOR GOVERNMENT SHEEP-BUYING

**E**ARLY LAST MONTH ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE that Comptroller-General McCarl had approved the expenditure of \$10,000,000 of drought-relief money for the purchase of sheep and goats in drought areas, on the principle that such purchase is necessary to relieve emergency conditions. Only ewes one year old or older will be bought, and a flat price of \$2 a head will be paid. On Angora goats the price will be \$1.40 each. All animals fit for food will be utilized in feeding families on the relief rolls. Processing will be done, so far as possible, in local plants. Eventually it is estimated that 5,000,000 animals may be purchased. Bids on processing and canning were opened at Washington on August 27.

Headquarters for the sheep-buying project have been established at Denver, and will be under the direction of Harry Petrie, chief of the Cattle and Sheep Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Mr. Petrie will be assisted by Fred W. Beier, Jr., live-stock statistician of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, with offices at Denver, in addition to Allen E. Mecham and Walter J. Hunt, of the AAA.

### CROP PROSPECTS

**O**WING TO CONTINUANCE OF THE DROUGHT AND record-breaking heat, crop prospects declined nearly 11 per cent during the month of July, according to the August report issued by the Department of Agriculture. Growing

conditions were poor practically everywhere, except along the Atlantic coast, in the southeastern states, and in the Pacific Northwest. In a broad central belt stretching from the Canadian to the Mexican border, all crops and pastures were seriously hurt, and most of the corn was scorched beyond recovery.

The havoc wrought by July's weather on growing crops, principally corn, will be seen from the below table, showing the harvest outlook as of August 1, compared with the previous month:

	August 1	July 1
Winter wheat (bu.)....	400,522,000	394,268,000
Spring wheat (bu.)....	90,438,000	89,394,000
All wheat (bu.).....	490,960,000	483,662,000
Corn (bu.).....	1,607,108,000	2,113,137,000
Oats (bu.).....	545,345,000	567,839,000
Barley (bu.).....	119,081,000	125,155,000
Rye (bu.).....	17,261,000	17,194,000
Potatoes (bu.).....	327,251,000	348,092,000
Hay, tame (tons).....	49,000,000	52,020,000
Hay, wild (tons).....	4,700,000	5,455,000
Sugar-beets (tons).....	6,800,000	7,900,000
Cotton (bales).....	9,195,000	

### CLEVELAND STOCK-YARD CASE SETS PRECEDENT

**N**EW SCHEDULES FOR STOCK-YARD SERVICES AT Cleveland, Ohio, were prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture on July 18, and accepted by the stock-yard company, as follows: cattle, 40 cents per head; hogs, 15 cents; sheep, 10 cents. On the volume of business handled in 1933, it is figured that these rates will provide net annual earnings of 6½ per cent on the agreed valuation of the stock-yard properties.

This is the first case involving stock-yard charges which has been settled amicably, without formal hearings or court proceedings. Representatives of the secretary and the stock-yard company reached an agreement as to the value of the properties and the rate of earning to be allowed. All operating expenses were deducted from the expected income. Charges for corn were fixed at 25 cents per bushel, and for hay at 25 cents per 100 pounds, above the cost as delivered at the yards.

### THE CALENDAR

- September 18-19, 1934—Annual Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, Casper, Wyo.
- October 6-13, 1934—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- October 12-16, 1934—Annual Convention of Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago, Ill.
- October 20-27, 1934—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- October 28-November 3, 1934—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- November 12-16, 1934—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- November 17-22, 1934—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- November 22-23, 1934—Annual Convention of California Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- December 1-8, 1934—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- January 7-10, 1935—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- January 9-11, 1935—Thirty-eighth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Rapid City, S. D.
- March 16-24, 1935—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.



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Volume XVI SEPTEMBER, 1934 Number 4

## RAILROADS PETITION FOR INCREASED RATES

THE RECENT PETITION OF THE RAILROADS to the Interstate Commerce Commission for authority to increase freight rates an average of approximately 10 per cent serves to focus attention, not only on the sorry plight of the railroads under antiquated management, but also on the increasing troubles of the administration as it continues to rob Peter to pay Paul, and thus keep the New Deal fires going.

The immediate excuse for the petition is the increased expense caused the railroads by New Deal pension legislation, the constitutionality of which has just been sustained in the courts. Granting that the excuse is a legitimate one, it would seem that the railroads had already sufficiently demonstrated the fact that a given increase in rates, instead of resulting in a given increase in revenues, has, under conditions obtaining during recent years, merely resulted in less volume of traffic on the rails and a corresponding increase in volume of their competitors. Railroad rate-making has degenerated into a frantic effort on

the part of the operating officials to pick non-competitive commodities which will bear a schedule of rates high enough to make up for low rates on competitive commodities. The trouble is that the officials have been poor pickers in many instances, especially as trucks and roads have developed, so that there has been a constant diversion of tonnage, as well as a restraint upon business, where rates have been prohibitive.

Forgetful of the lessons already learned, the railroad executives apparently have decided that the government, being the immediate cause of their present distress, must remedy it by increasing rates. When the present crop of executives pass on, their successors will plan to get the business back by lowering rates, improving the service, and generally going modern instead of antique.

It is ridiculous to say that railroads, with their exclusive rights-of-way, and with engines capable of pulling one hundred heavily loaded cars without effort, employing a crew of five men, cannot compete with trucks, where it takes two men properly to man a vehicle that, at the most, can carry the equivalent of only one large rail carload.

What the railroads need is new management, not higher rates.

Referring again to the cause of the present action, it begins to appear that no human agency is so all-wise that it can interfere with the normal operations of all the myriad cross-currents of the business of a hundred and twenty-five million people, and yet preserve a fair and equitable balance between them.

The pension legislation seeks to benefit one class only—railroad labor. Desirable as that may be, railroad employees are already in far better condition than many of the people who will be called upon to foot the bill of increased transportation cost, if the petition is granted.

From the beginning of the New Deal, agriculture, as usual, got the worst of it. The National Recovery Act made great strides in increasing the cost of commodities of all kinds, to the detriment of the agricultural producer, while dissension in the ranks of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration kept those producers from getting the full benefits promised them. Complaints are increasing rather than decreasing. Prices fixed for industrial products become operative at once. It takes weeks and months for programs under the AAA to show concrete results, and in the meantime the producer holds the bag. He will continue to suffer so long as operations of all kinds are on an artificial basis. He needs railroad rates, service charges, and supply costs on a basis commensurate with his ability to pay. The only way he will ever get them is through eliminating the extra costs now added at every turn of the road. It



is physically impossible to maintain agriculture on the same artificial basis that industry has acquired under the NRA. As a result, the longer the present experiments are carried on, the worse will be the relative position of the nation's best bet—the agricultural producer.

### HEARINGS ON TAYLOR GRAZING ACT

**A**SSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR Oscar L. Chapman, with a corps of experts from the department, in late July and early August held hearings on the Taylor Grazing Act in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Having returned to Washington for a few weeks to digest the mass of conflicting testimony, they are now back on the job in the remaining public-land states in the Southwest and on the Pacific coast.

If there is any one thing that stands out in the record to date, it is that the tramp sheepman has not a friend in the world. The long-standing war between cattlemen and sheepmen has become largely a tradition of the old West. The new rivalry is between the men who build communities, and who pay the taxes to support the institutions necessary to their welfare, and the nomads who, through misuse of the existing land laws, or through no vested right whatever, have ranged at will over all available territory, ruthlessly destroying winter feed, overgrazing wherever they go, poaching on water belonging to someone else, and generally making first-class nuisances of themselves.

The Taylor Grazing Act bids fair to perform a miracle and make landholders out of these men, because under that act they will not be able to establish preference rights unless they change from nomadic herders to legitimate ranch-owners or lessees. Money they are now disbursing hiring high-priced lawyers to plead their case would be better spent in making a down payment on a ranch.

General support is being given the suggestion made by the American National Live Stock Association that the Department of the Interior should formulate tentative rules and regulations, and that a hearing on these, to be limited to a few representatives of the cattle- and sheepmen from each state, be held at Denver as soon thereafter as possible. It is felt that such a course would do much to get administration of the act off to a good start, especially in view of the fact that in the hearings now being held no hint is given the stockmen as to what regulations the department has in mind.

Points of special interest to stockmen generally are:

- Degree of self-administration;
- Preference rights to present legitimate users;

Duration of permits;

Grazing fees;

Leasing of isolated tracts;

Transfers—under what conditions these can be made, with due protection to owners of adjacent ranch property.

We admit that Mr. Chapman and his assistants have a difficult task on hand; but the difficulties should not be insurmountable. By taking advantage of the proffered co-operation of the producers, *who know the public domain and the conditions under which it can be profitably handled*, they can avoid many of the mistakes made in the early days of the Forest Service. To err is human, but to commit the same error twice is dumb. The attitude shown in the hearings to date would indicate that the administration is going to proceed along intelligent lines and with full recognition of the problems which constantly beset users of the public domain.

### EMERGENCY DROUGHT RAILROAD RATES

**M**UCH PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN RECENTLY to the reductions made in freight rates by the railroads as a drought emergency relief measure. Substantially lower rates have been conceded on grain, cottonseed cake, hay, water, and various other feeds; but on live stock, where the reduction is needed the most, the emergency tariff is so drawn that in the majority of cases the *regular* freight rate is exacted.

A rate of 85 per cent of the full fat-stock rate is granted on the initial haul, plus 15 per cent for the return movement; so that, in the few cases where live stock is shipped to feed and later returned to the home ranch, a full one-way rate is charged for the round trip.

The railroads know that ranchmen long ago learned the impracticability of making such round-trip shipments. When drought comes, feed is sought on the way to market, and the shipment is stopped en route, completing the journey within a few months. The ranchman pays the *regular* freight charge, because the 85 per cent provided for the initial trip in the emergency tariff is exactly the same as the stocker and feeder rate on such shipments in the regular tariff.

This dodge has been resorted to by the railroads whenever drought conditions have arisen in past years. The 50 per cent reduction in rates on live stock is broadcast far and wide by the railroads as evidence of their purely altruistic and benevolent aims, while at the same time their agents are busy collecting *regular* freight rates in the majority of

cases. Stockmen are on to the game. The exorbitant freight rates which they have been required to pay all during the depression are bound to kick back against the railroads sooner or later. When that time comes, the carriers may wish they had made an honest-to-God reduction in the drought rates, rather than a make-believe one, thereby making friends (whom they badly need), instead of adding to the number of their critics.

### COTTONSEED-CAKE PURCHASES

**T**HE SHARP ADVANCE IN COTTONSEED-cake prices during recent weeks has focused attention on that product—always a desirable supplement to other feeds, both in carrying stock herds through the winter and in fattening animals for market. It has been assumed that the mills are profiteering, inasmuch as recent shipments have all been from low-priced old-crop seed. In order to get at the facts, the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER wrote to A. L. Ward, executive vice-president of the Texas Cottonseed Crushers' Association, for information, and attention is directed to his reply, published in our "Stockmen's Exchange" section. Mr. Ward has co-operated in many joint activities with live-stock producers, and is a reliable and conscientious informant.

It would seem that the rush to buy for August shipment—orders far exceeding the available supply—in order to get the benefit of the drought rates expiring September 4, unduly advanced prices. Railroads are being urged to extend the drought rates for at least sixty days more, so that future orders may be better distributed.

Stockmen would do well to canvass the situation thoroughly before placing orders. Rates based on Memphis to points in the Northwest are slightly higher than those based on Dallas, but it is possible that the mills in southeastern territory may find it profitable to absorb this differential, manufacturing less fertilizer and more cake.

President Collins has suggested that 38 per cent cake, instead of 43 per cent as customarily used, would make the available supply of protein go farther, and also supply some roughness in the hulls added to lower the protein content. Mr. Ward, it is noted, approves this suggestion.

At current prices of cottonseed cake—close to \$50, delivered in Denver territory—many stockmen feel that it cannot be fed to cattle, based on present values. It will be to the interest of everyone to stabilize the price at a level where it can be fed, and thus prevent further liquidation of the seed herds which will be so necessary to normal operations later on.

### IMPROVING QUALITY OF RANGE HERDS THROUGH DROUGHT CULLING

**I**T IS TOO EARLY PROPERLY TO APPRAISE the effects of the drought purchasing program, now in full swing, on the quality of range cattle herds. In the regions where the full severity of the drought has been felt, unfortunately many fine breeding animals have had to be sacrificed; but in many areas, including the greater portion of the range states, owners have been able to cull their herds in quite satisfactory fashion. Drought, with one fell swoop, has made possible more efficient selection of desirable breeding animals to be retained than all the exhortations of breed organizations and the specialists of the Department of Agriculture combined could have effected in ten years' time.

For many years it has been cause for wonder that, in spite of all the pressure for improvement of quality in breeding herds put forth by state and federal agricultural departments, as well as by various live-stock organizations, there has been little apparent diminution in the supply of low-grade animals. In part this has been due to the increase in dairy herds, and the occasional use of bulls of beef breeds in cross-breeding dairy cows; but some of the responsibility must be laid at the door of carelessness and indifference on the part of the breeder of beef animals.

Just how far the drought will go in reducing numbers cannot be accurately forecast at this time. It is generally believed that in effectiveness it will equal at least three years of any cattle-reduction program which might have been devised. Inevitably it will bring higher prices next year, and a scramble on the part of those who have been forced to reduce their herds sharply in order to rebuild them quickly. It is to be hoped that such rebuilding efforts will not be at the expense of maintaining the higher standard of quality obtained under the drought program. Maintaining such a standard will have a stabilizing effect on the industry, and will insure a much longer period of satisfactory prices than if quality standards are thrown overboard in a rush to swell the size of the herds.

### Feed-Grain Shortage in Europe

Central Europe is faced with a feed-grain shortage which is expected to force heavy sales of live stock. Exclusive of Russia, the rye crop is estimated to be between 20 and 25 per cent less than last year.

### Live-Stock Census in Mexico

The official returns from the 1930 Mexican live-stock census—the first actual and complete enumeration of domestic animals in that country—are at last to hand. The figures are as below, compared with estimated numbers published in 1927, which are added in parentheses: cattle, 10,083,000 (5,585,000); sheep, 3,674,000 (2,698,000); swine, 3,698,000 (2,903,000).



# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

## THE PRICE OF COTTONSEED CAKE

DALLAS, TEX., August 16, 1934.

TO THE PRODUCER:

In your letter of August 14 you have been good enough frankly to state your thoughts concerning the rapid advance in the price of cottonseed cake, give your opinion, and offer some helpful suggestions. In the following I will try to give some facts which will convince you that our mills are not responsible for this rise, any more than are the farmers who are growing wheat and other grains responsible for the rise in the price of grains.

Texas crushing-mills are large buyers of high-priced cake today. We did not have a large carry-over of cake, and practically all the carry-over held by our mills was bought by far-seeing buyers at \$28 and \$32 per ton, for delivery from July to December. This week some cottonseed cake is being delivered in Kansas for \$30 per ton, with freight paid. This cake was bought, of course, in the early summer for August delivery.

Some large operators have found it to their advantage to buy 41 per cent cottonseed meal or cake on the Memphis exchange. I have in mind one dealer in cottonseed products who, on July 14, purchased for one of his customers—a ranchman in west Texas—300 tons of 41 per cent cake at \$28.75. This cattleman decided to sell, and on August 10 disposed of the 300 tons at \$36.75 per ton. The same dealer told me of some other purchases he made on June 21 of 41 per cent cake for \$25, on June 29 for \$26, and on July 11 for \$28. These and all other purchases made early in the season for later deliveries were made possible by mills selling the actual products they had on hand.

On the matter of prices paid for seed, I have just learned that some mills are now paying as high as \$38 for seed delivered in the mill. This seed will gross \$42 on today's products market. The approximate cost of working the seed, at today's operating expense, is \$5.50 to \$6.50 per ton; thus resulting in a net loss to these mills of \$1.50 to \$2.50 per ton. The mills which are paying such prices are gambling that oil, linters, cake, or hulls will go up. Of course, the cotton-farmer is benefited by the chance taken by the crushing-mill, and the mills which are trying to conduct their business on a sound manufacturing basis are being "cussed" by the farmer for not paying what he thinks is the "full price" of cottonseed. So you see we have, on the one side, the cotton-farmer urging for the maximum price on cottonseed, and, on the other side, our cake-buyers asking that there be no advance in cake and meal. It puts the government and the cotton-oil mills—both of which are trying to help the cotton-farmer and the cattleman—in a most difficult position.

The shortage of cottonseed and cottonseed-feed products can be better understood when you consider a county like Lubbock—in the cattle territory, and at the same time in the heart of the cotton-producing West. Lubbock County in 1931

ginned 76,050 bales of cotton; in 1932, 100,970 bales; in 1933, 84,271 bales. For 1934 the crop is variously estimated at from 3,000 to 11,000 bales. It is unfortunate that the nation-wide grain shortage should come simultaneously with the great cotton shortage. If there were no drought, doubtless there would be a great surplus of cake that we should have difficulty in moving at from \$18 to \$20 per ton.

I am impressed with your suggestion about offering, under present circumstances, 38 per cent protein cake. Cracking-plants at Memphis, Little Rock, and Cairo that have purchased large quantities of slab cake in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas have been selling 41 per cent cracked cake for some time. You will find, also, that dealers and mills in any of the states will sell 41 per cent cake when specified. The 38 per cent protein cake is made in the southeastern territory, and the long freight haul would make it difficult to secure. However, 28 per cent whole-pressed (cold-press) cake can be obtained from the southwestern states as well as from the mills in the Mississippi Valley.

You realize, of course, that the cowman greatly values the higher protein cake, and has, in the majority of cases, insisted on 41 to 43 per cent protein.

As to the time when the new crushing season will begin: The crushing of new seed started in the Rio Grande Valley territory during the week of July 15, and in the Houston territory during the week of August 6.

In regard to drought freight rates: On August 7 I sent a telegram to Dr. Warburton and Dr. Sheets, urging the importance of assuring the buyers that these rates will be extended throughout the winter, in order to relieve the buying pressure on August.

I feel that it is highly important that the live-stock interests become familiar with the above facts.

A. L. WARD,

*Executive Vice President,  
Texas Cottonseed Crushers' Association.*

## THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND

PRESCOTT, ARIZ., August 2, 1934.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Having waited unsuccessfully for someone to present a simple exposition of the "Law of Supply and Demand" and its practical application to present economic problems, the writer decided to submit some observations, in the hope that these might at least stimulate discussion. Anyone finding himself running short of puzzle material may consider this one: Why do so many people cite the law of supply and demand as a controlling trade factor, yet refuse to make any attempt toward applying its principles, or even defining or discussing the law itself?

The subject divides naturally into two parts: (1) What



is the law of supply and demand? (2) What are some of its practical applications?

For a working definition, it is hardly necessary to consult encyclopedias or economic specialists. The little old lady on the edge of town, who makes her living keeping chickens and carries her product to market in a basket, can tell us about all we need to know. She will explain that during the spring she receives 15 to 20 cents a dozen for eggs, but that in the late fall this price rises to 30 to 40 cents. Asked why, she will say that fresh eggs are plentiful in the spring, when everything that has feathers lays eggs, but scarce in the fall. Thus she has told us that the relationship existing between the supply of and the demand for eggs sets their price. Apply this principle to commodities generally, and we have learned the most important lesson that the law of supply and demand teaches.

But we may wish to be more scientific and complete; so we appeal to the literature on the subject. Here we meet a real difficulty; for the material is so extensive that to select and condense something for practical use is no easy task. However, it must be attempted. Hence the writer presents a statement from the "Standard Encyclopedia":

"The laws of demand and supply may be thus stated: When the demand exceeds the supply, competition grows among the buyers, and prices rise. When the demand falls short of the supply, competition grows stronger among the sellers, and prices fall."

This authority then draws a conclusion:

"Therefore, falling prices tend to lessen the supply and increase the demand, while rising prices tend to increase the supply and lessen the demand."

Just here it may be well to define terms. The word "supply" is simple and leaves little room for more than one interpretation. Not so with "demand." This term is used to mean almost anything that suits the interpreter. As used in the law, the word is strictly a market term, and means the amount of goods which the market will buy at a given price. It has nothing to do with the sociological expression of need, want, or desire to have. The desire and the ability to buy must both be present.

The law itself, as expressed in the first part of the quotation above, requires little comment or explanation—it is an every-day experience. It is the conclusions or deductions from the law that give rise to variety of opinion.

Perhaps the most common deduction, and the one least susceptible of proof, is that, in some manner, this law works automatically toward the maintenance of prices at profit levels, and that, in practice, the operation of the law adjusts production to demand, thus insuring prosperity conditions.

The facts of experience deny the accuracy of such a deduction, except in special cases. It is true that, if beef be cheap and wool dear, stockmen may switch from cattle to sheep and thus relieve the pressure of the surplus on beef; or, if wool also is cheap, they may, as they did in numbers in 1930-31, turn to dairying. But when dairy prices also collapse, where could the stockman then turn? Certainly not to hogs or grain—not in those years.

The facts are that this automatic adjustment as between lines of production is possible only when the depression prices exist in but one or a few of these. The theory fails completely when all lines are depressed, as is the case in a general depression. Total production is affected but little by such a process. Farm production, as a whole, dropped only slightly from 1929 to 1932, inclusive—some 5 to 7 per cent, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Neither does a study of the past general depressions, such as those of 1920, 1893, and 1873, provide support for the auto-

matic-adjustment theory. As a matter of fact, expansion rather than contraction was the rule during those periods. Relief was obtained through increased demand rather than through adjusted production. In 1920 our heavy loans to Europe provided the necessary outlet. In the 1893 and 1873 depression periods the ever-developing West took up the slack, and growing construction and industry made the market. Potentially, if not actually, farm production increased.

It may be stated, therefore, that relief from general depressions through the operation of the law of supply and demand as a production-adjustment force has never occurred in the history of modern agriculture. What might have happened had 1932 conditions continued we can only surmise, but it is not a particularly pleasant picture that comes to mind. A long-continued period of profitless farm production might eventually bankrupt a sufficient number of producers to reduce total production materially, and finally adjust supply to demand. But recent history offers no evidence, and the question arises whether or not the national structure could withstand the strain.

However, a democratic set-up can function smoothly, or even at all, only when the commodity supply is in reasonable balance with the buying demand. If the accidents of war, unfavorable climatic conditions, or territorial expansion do not occur to bring about such a balance, then it would seem that a man-made plan is necessary. Perhaps the time has arrived when the same type of careful planning and management that has operated for so long in the matter of production must be applied to the country's economics. Balance there must be, regardless of how it is obtained, if economic democracy is to survive. And the law of supply and demand is not an automatic, self-adjusting mechanism.

ED SMITH.

## SEES NO HOPE OF REFINANCING CATTLE INDUSTRY

DALHART, TEX., August 18, 1934.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The cattle industry west of the big river is wrecked beyond repair until green grass comes again. It seems to me that a look into the future reveals an industry without any hope of refinancing.

My grandfather was one of the pioneer cattlemen of Texas, having moved to this state several years before the Civil War and started the handling of cattle in Denton County. He left a son who made a mark in the cattle business—the late Burk Burnett, of Fort Worth. The cattle business is all I have ever known, and it would be very hard for me to change to some other method of making a living. But such is the condition that confronts me now that, if I am forced to sell my little breeding herd, I can see no hope of ever refinancing another bunch of cattle, unless the government will undertake the deal.

I have read Mr. Collins' article in regard to cattlemen holding on as long as possible. This is the very best of advice, but our tail-holds are all slipping in this country. There is no hope now for any cattle to be held, except a few milk-cows. If rain should come within the next few days, a small part of this country might produce a little winter grass, but there is no hope of raising any feed at this late stage.

We need real leadership now more than ever. If the weather ever cools off, I hope to kill a calf, peddle the meat, and send you the proceeds, to carry on the real fight that is before the cattle industry.

JERRY B. MINTER.

# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## GOVERNMENT TO HOLD HIDES FROM DROUGHT CATTLE

THE QUESTION WHAT TO DO WITH THE HIDES OF cattle killed under the government's drought-relief program, and which are the property of the packers under the terms of the original contract, has become one of increasing importance as the slaughter has got into full swing and the scope of the program has been extended. Already the channels of trade have been clogged by the growing accumulation, which is far in excess of what the tanning industry is able to absorb. As a consequence, chaos is reigning in the hide market, with quotations sinking to ever lower levels. This in turn is kicking back on the price which the packers can pay for cattle and calves shipped to market in the regular course of business.

Requests that the government step in to relieve the situation have been vigorous and insistent. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association in Denver in July a resolution was passed urging that the administration take the drought hides off the market until they can be sold at a fair price, and that an embargo be placed upon the importation of hides during the duration of the present emergency. This was backed up by a telegram to the officials in Washington sent by the conference at Salt Lake City.

The AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER has now received information to the effect that a plan has been worked out. It is understood that the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation will retain all hides and skins taken from drought cattle and calves on contracts to become effective on or after September 5, but that nothing can be done in the case of hides from animals purchased prior to that date. The hides and skins are to be processed at the expense of the corporation, and to be made into coats and shoes for those on the relief rolls. A sum of \$10,000,000 has been made available by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, through the commodity credit corporations, to defray the expenses in the way of transportation, warehousing, inspection, and insurance.

## TENDERLOINS FROM DROUGHT CATTLE TAKEN OFF MARKET

TENDERLOINS FROM DROUGHT CATTLE, HELD back by processors canning the beef for relief purposes under government contracts, and disposed of to the regular retail trade, hotels, and restaurants at reduced prices, have been a source of much criticism on the part of stockmen and others who are anxious that the last ounce of benefit to the industry be derived from the administration's slaughtering program.

At conferences with Dr. E. W. Sheets, director of

federal emergency drought relief, in Salt Lake City in July, and later between Chester C. Davis, administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and Secretary Mollin at Reno, Nevada, the matter was put before the government officials, the position of the stockmen explained, and the request made that the tenderloins and other parts of the carcass be not sold in competition with beef from cattle slaughtered in the normal course of business.

We have now been assured that the administration has acceded to this, and that both tenderloins and tongues henceforth will be canned or otherwise processed for distribution among the needy.

\* \* \*

The California Drought Relief Advisory Board, meeting in San Francisco on July 30, adopted this resolution:

"WHEREAS, It was stated at the general drought conference at St. Paul, Minnesota, that no meat from animals purchased under the drought-relief program would go into commercial channels; and

"WHEREAS, Tenderloins and other parts of carcasses of drought animals have been accepted, and are being featured and sold, at retail butcher shops, hotels, and restaurants; and

"WHEREAS, The commercial fresh-meat markets are now very amply supplied with meat, with the result that any excess supplies have a most depressing effect on fresh-meat and live-animal prices; and

"WHEREAS, Tenderloins, if for some unknown reason they cannot be canned, may be boiled down for beef broth or stock, which would be particularly desirable for institutions; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we hereby strenuously object to the practice of disposing of any portions of animal carcasses, purchased under the drought-relief program by the government, through commercial channels."

## GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF CATTLE

UP TO AUGUST 28, 1,132 COUNTIES IN TWENTY-three states had been designated as "emergency relief counties." Total government purchases of cattle and calves in these counties amounted to 3,809,906 head, or 31.4 per cent of the inventories on the farms. Condemnations on farms increased to 554,848 head, or 13.7 per cent of the numbers purchased. Cattle comprised 76 per cent of the purchases and calves 24 per cent. The average price paid for all cattle, including calves, was \$13.57 a head. Total shipments to packing plants and grazing areas numbered 2,029,666 head. Orders received for cattle shipments to southern and eastern pastures up to August 20 amounted to 1,026,000 head.

Information regarding the number of cattle slaughtered is incomplete, owing to delay in getting reports from some plants.

Numbers of cattle and calves sold to the Emergency Re-



Relief Administration in sixteen western states from June 6 to August 27, together with percentages of inventories on farms selling, were as follows:

	No. Cattle Sold	Per Cent Inventory
Arizona .....	20,948	15.2
California .....	13,029	14.0
Colorado .....	113,064	29.8
Idaho .....	15,383	25.3
Kansas .....	182,541	36.8
Montana .....	216,872	56.1
Nebraska .....	172,719	21.8
Nevada .....	9,040	12.9
New Mexico .....	233,206	19.5
North Dakota .....	793,942	46.9
Oklahoma .....	69,098	31.6
Oregon .....	1,562	13.4
South Dakota .....	558,863	39.3
Texas .....	804,754	24.9
Utah .....	62,032	25.6
Wyoming .....	111,601	38.7

#### LOANS FURNISHED TO MOVE LIVE STOCK

**E**MERGENCY LOANS WILL BE MADE BY THE FARM Credit Administration from the \$525,000,000 relief fund to enable farmers and stockmen to move their live stock from drought territory to new pastures. Transportation costs are to be limited to \$3 a head for farm cattle, \$1.50 for range cattle, \$4 for farm work stock, \$2 for saddle and pack horses, 50 cents for sheep, and 35 cents for goats. Where live stock is to be returned, allowance for transportation must cover costs both ways. Loans may also be made for pasture rent, the maximum to be 50 cents a head per month.

Feeder loans may be secured on cattle and lambs up to

the full purchase price, under certain conditions. The loans will bear 5 per cent interest, and be secured by a first mortgage on the live stock and on enough feed to finish the animals for market.

#### NATION-WIDE FEED AND LIVE-STOCK SURVEY BEGUN

**A** SPECIAL FEED AND LIVE-STOCK SURVEY AMONG more than 500,000 farmers in all parts of the country is at present being made by the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, at the request of the Drought Relief Service of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The inquiry will assemble facts, as of August 16, as to the nation's feed supplies in relation to live stock, by counties, in drought and non-drought areas. It will show what quantities of grain and hay are available for animal feeding, locating the areas in which there is a surplus of feed crops for sale, and other areas in which farmers will need additional feed to carry their live stock through the winter.

Other features of the survey will be an effort to locate areas in which live-stock numbers will need to be reduced because of feed shortage, to ascertain the number of animals of which farmers would have disposed by next spring under normal conditions, and to find out what additional numbers will have to be sold because of shortage or high prices of feed. Areas in which farmers have sufficient feed supplies to permit the taking on of some additional live stock will be located. The inquiry will also cover questions as to water supplies, in an effort to find out what proportion of farmers do not have sufficient water on their farms.

## THE INTERMOUNTAIN LIVE STOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Located at the Denver Union Stock Yards

and twenty-three other member agencies of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, bought and sold more than 129,000 decks of live stock during the year of 1933. These agencies represent more than 300,000 members and shippers.

The Intermountain is one of the leading firms on the Denver market—handling cattle, hogs, and sheep. Your support and that of your friends and neighbors will help maintain our present low commission schedule.

*For detailed market and credit advice communicate with*

**Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association**

F. E. HANKS, Manager

105 Live Stock Exchange Building

Denver, Colorado

To carry out the adjustments indicated by the survey, the following Live-Stock Feed Committee has been named: Lawrence Westbrook, of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration; Keith Southard, of the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation; A. T. Esgate and C. R. Arnold, of the Farm Credit Administration; and C. W. Warburton, J. R. Mohler, W. A. Callendar, Phillip G. Murphy, and Calvin Hoover, of the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

### CANADIAN FEED FOR AMERICAN DROUGHT CATTLE

ON AUGUST 10 A PROCLAMATION WAS SIGNED BY President Roosevelt, temporarily suspending import duties on hay and feeds, as a drought-relief measure. It was expected that this would start a flow of feed across the Canadian border, helping to save herds now facing starvation.

Following this, the Canadian government issued an order forbidding the exportation of fodder except under license, as provided by the new agricultural marketing law of the Dominion. The order, however, makes this reservation:

"It may be anticipated that where surplus areas in Canada are contiguous to deficit areas in the United States, or vice versa, if conditions warrant, arrangements will be reached for the movement of feedstuffs across the line."

### CROP-ADJUSTMENT PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR ANNOUNCED

CURTAILMENT OF THE WHEAT ACREAGE OF 1935 by 10 per cent below that of the base period, 1930-32, in place of the 15 per cent in force during the current year, for farmers participating in the government's crop-control program, with a desired production of 750,000,000 to 775,000,000 bushels, is understood to have been decided upon by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The decision is said to be a compromise between a wish to forestall campaign criticism of this year's reduction program, upset by the intervening drought, and an effort to avoid the accumulating surpluses of the past normal seasons. Officials also feel that some cut in the acreage to be planted is necessary to offset increases by farmers, not co-operating in the control plan, who may be tempted by the higher prices.

On corn, a 15 to 20 per cent acreage reduction is tentatively proposed, in place of the 20 to 30 per cent stipulated in the 1934 program.

On cotton, a 10 to 15 per cent cut in acreage may be asked, the desired crop to be 11,500,000 to 13,000,000 bales.

No direct control is contemplated on hogs and other live stock, supplies to be regulated through adjustment of feed crops.

### TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBA SIGNED

CUBA IS THE FIRST NATION TO ENTER INTO A trade pact with the United States under the powers granted the President by the last Congress. On July 24, signatures were affixed to a treaty which is designed to promote the exchange of goods between the two countries through reciprocal concessions, professedly chosen so as to hurt no essential industry of either.

The group of American products on which import duties have been reduced by the Cuban government includes lard (from \$9.18 to \$2.75 per 100 pounds, with a further reduction

to \$1.45 after September 3, 1936); salt and pickled pork (from \$6.45 to \$4.09); bacon and smoked pork (from \$6.63 to \$5.45); cured and smoked hams (from \$8.72 to \$5.45); and potatoes (from \$1.81 to 90 cents). On wool the American preferential has been increased from 20 to 50 per cent. Wheat flour, corn, cottonseed, soy-beans, rice, fish, canned vegetables, textiles, automobiles, machinery, iron and steel, and lumber are other articles on which rates have been changed in our favor.

Compared with this rather formidable list, Cuba's bag contains only a few items. The principal one is sugar, on which the tariff has been cut from 1.5 to 0.9 cent a pound. Other commodities are rum, cigar tobacco, and winter vegetables.

On the face of it, this looks like a distinctly advantageous deal to American agriculture and business. It should be remembered, however, that the gift to Cuba on sugar alone represented by this reduction of the tariff is \$22,824,000, based on this year's quota, which is more than the total value of all United States exports to the island republic in 1933.

### SHELTER BELT A THOUSAND MILES LONG

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT in July allocates \$15,000,000 of emergency funds to the Department of Agriculture as the first instalment toward a huge scheme which contemplates the planting of a forest shelter belt 1,000 miles long and 100 miles wide, to run from the Canadian border south through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and the Panhandle of Texas. There will be 100 shelter strips, one mile apart and each seven rods wide, the government to fence the strips and to buy only the land inclosed within them. The unplanted land between the strips is to remain private property.

The idea back of the project is that such an immense wind-break will favorably affect weather conditions within or near it, aid in conserving moisture, and tend to check the heavy winds which are carrying off the top soil of the grass-denuded portions of the western plains.

Native trees best suited to each particular region will be selected, and the first thing to do will be to establish nurseries. Large-scale plantings cannot be begun until 1936, and, at 180,000 acres a year, it is estimated that ten years will be required to finish the job.

Farmers in the belt involved, whose tree-planting experiments have almost uniformly resulted in failure, are shaking their heads at this ambitious scheme. The Forest Service, on the other hand, seems to think it feasible.

### TURN IN YOUR SILVER BARS!

NATIONALIZATION, OR GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP, of all silver stocks in the country was ordered by President Roosevelt on August 9, following his proclamation of last year taking over the nation's gold. The order exempts silver coin in circulation, household articles, such as table silver and personal ornaments, silver ore, and newly mined silver. All other, or "raw," metal must be turned in to the mints, which will pay 50.01 cents an ounce to the owners, less handling charges. Newly mined silver is accepted at the United States Treasury at 64.5 cents an ounce.

The Silver Purchase Act passed by Congress last spring requires the silver reserves of the country to be built up to a one-to-three ratio with gold. By "nationalizing" the metal, the government plans to save money by not being compelled to buy silver at steadily rising speculative prices.



# OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

## RAILROADS APPLY FOR RATE INCREASE

ON AUGUST 27 THE LONG-ANTICIPATED REQUEST of the railroads for permission to increase their freight rates was filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by the Association of Railway Executives. The petition, which names specific groups of commodities on which increases are sought, is designed to raise the revenues of Class I roads by \$170,000,000 annually. Heightened operating expenses to an amount estimated at \$293,000,000, brought about by an increased wage-level, the demands of the new employees' pension law, and higher costs of materials and supplies, are named as the reason for the application. Assurance is given by the carriers that, if their petition is granted, the new rates will be reasonable and will permit the free movement of traffic. An early hearing is asked for.

In short-haul rates, increases would range from 1 to 4 cents per 100 pounds, and in long-haul rates (more than 220 miles) there would be a maximum increase of 10 per cent. On live stock and animal products the increase sought would be 10 per cent, except on rates of 25 cents or less per 100 pounds, which would not be changed. On grains and grain products, no increase would be made in Eastern Territory, but west of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio River there would be a specific increase of 3 cents per 100 pounds.

## RAILROADS REFUSE TO CONTINUE EMERGENCY RATES

REDUCED EMERGENCY RATES ON CATTLE, LIVE-stock feed, and water came to an end on September 4. On August 17 the President's Drought Relief Committee asked that the reductions be extended, but at a meeting of railroad executives on August 28 the request was denied.

Emergency freight tariffs have been in force in the Western Territory since June 4. The rates provided for a reduction of 50 per cent on hay, 33½ per cent on grains and mixed feeds, and 50 per cent on water. They also included provision for a rate of 85 per cent of the regular rate on out-bound cattle to other grazing areas and 15 per cent on the return movement. In other words, cattle, if returned to their regular owner, would pay one fare for the round trip.

## RAILROADS ACT TO MEET TRUCK COMPETITION

ADMITTEDLY AS A CHALLENGE TO THE TRUCKS, railroads entering Chicago, with minor exceptions, have announced, effective September 1, a reduction in live-stock freight rates applicable on all shipments from points, both state and interstate, within 475 miles of the Chicago market. Reductions range from 1 cent to as high as 7½ cents per

100 pounds on cattle and small stock, double-deck, with even greater reductions on small stock in single-deck cars. Savings to shippers are estimated at from \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000 annually.

The more recent announcement that the railroads would attempt to increase all live-stock rates (except those under 25 cents per 100 pounds) approximately 10 per cent would, if successful, wipe out the above savings, except on the shorter hauls.

## TRUCKS GOING MODERN

INCREASED COMPETITION WITH THE RAILROADS on the part of the motor truck is seen in an innovation inaugurated by truck-owners in California, who have decided to enter the feeding-in-transit business. With their lower rates, quicker service, and other obvious advantages, the trucks, as they rapidly extend their field of operations, are proving a more and more formidable rival of the old-line carriers, and are prompting these to introduce long-needed reforms which no amount of complaints from the shipping public in the past has been able to bring about.

## FREIGHT RATES ON MEATS TO PACIFIC COAST

EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE INTER-state Commerce Commission by mid-western packers and the Denver and Omaha stock-yard companies, vigorously attacking the examiners' report in the western meat-rate case. As will be remembered, the examiners recommended that no reduction be made in the freight rates on fresh meats and other packing-house products from Chicago, Iowa, and other points to the Pacific coast. Replies to the exceptions are to be submitted by coast producers and independent packers, who have been joined by Wilson and Cudahy, both owning large plants in southern California.

Oral argument has been set for October at Washington, D. C. A decision is expected in January or February of 1935.

## Registered HEREFORD BULLS

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Cheyenne, Wyoming

Established 1872

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# End Blackleg danger for LIFE! Use ONE SHOT of Cutter's BLACKLEGOL



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**Blacklegol**  
full 5 c.c. dose

**10cents**  
per dose

• Life immunity to blackleg, beginning with the suckling stage, once meant two injections of Cutter Blackleg Bacterin or Aggressin, or a product of equal potency. It meant, too, a costly burden of labor and materials. Now BLACKLEGOL has ended all that.

Shrewd cattlemen are saving money and lives with one injection of BLACKLEGOL in sucklings. So efficient is this exclusive Cutter discovery that even should an occasional immunization fail (and there are none of record in thousands of injections) the loss would be immeasurably offset by the saving.

BLACKLEGOL is an answer to one of the cattleman's greatest needs. Start using it for *life immunity from one shot . . . NOW!*

• If your veterinarian, dealer, or association cannot supply BLACKLEGOL, write direct for quantity prices.

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Gentlemen: Rush full information and quantity prices on BLACKLEGOL.

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CHECK WHETHER YOU ARE A  
Veterinarian..... Druggist..... Stockman.....



# THE MARKETS

## LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN AUGUST

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., September 1, 1934.

**C**URRENT EVENTS IN LIVE-STOCK TRADING CIRCLES are somewhat astounding. More or less plausible, if not satisfying, explanation is available. Cattle-market pyrotechnics recall the boom period of 1926 and 1927, although at somewhat lower levels, and a high-flying hog market has put quotations back to 1931, without figuring the processing tax. Equally puzzling is a demoralized lamb market that has been distanced by the two major branches of the trade.

### August Sees Brisk Advance in Cattle and Hogs

Between settlement of the Chicago strike on August 3 and the end of that month, top cattle advanced from \$9.25 to \$10.90; top hogs, from \$5.10 to \$8; while top lambs stuck around \$7. No logical explanation is forthcoming in the case of lambs, except that the wool market went to sleep meanwhile. Cattle prices were marked up when feeders emerged from their strike-period panic, and the hog market soared when the old crop ran out, although suspicion exists that the market was manipulated to facilitate liquidation of huge stocks of meat and lard, much of it the product of hogs put away on a \$3.50 to \$4.50 basis when the heavy run was on. A steadily advancing corn market discouraged putting weight on hogs, garnering the crop early at light weight, and putting butchers weighing 250 to 350 pounds on a parity with 200- to 240-pound animals, incidentally developing a boom in packing-sow trade, grass widows advancing from a \$3.50 to a \$7 basis.

### Stock-Yard Strike Temporarily Upsets Market

All this is water that has gone over the dam. How it happened can be briefly stated, particularly in the case of fat cattle. Feeders took advantage of a healthy July market to crowd butchers, starting a slump prior to the Chicago strike. While that market was closed, killers went countryward to satisfy immediate needs, and, anticipating prolonged closure of the market, bought in excess of immediate requirements, gorging coolers and temporarily accumulating an excess supply that was pushed into beef-distribution channels. Skeptical feeders filled the hopper at Chicago the moment the strike embargo was lifted, creating a glut and paralyzing the whole trade. During the week ending August 11 the bottom literally dropped out of the price-list, \$8.50 to \$9 bought choice bullocks, and \$9.25 was an outside figure—a decline of \$1 to \$1.25 per cwt. compared with the previous high spot. From August 13 to 28 prices rose steadily and even sensationally, followed by a 25- to 35-cent decline, after advances ranging from \$1 to \$2 per cwt. At one time the practical top was \$9. On August 28 it reached \$10.90 on a load of 1,186-pound steers that were second champion yearlings at the 1933 American Royal, and probably the best consignment of bullocks offered on the Chicago market since the 1933 International; but, as other cattle sold by the thousand in the \$10 to \$10.85 range concurrently, this top was justified. Yearlings weighing 1,000 pounds sold at \$10; mixed steer and heifer yearlings, at \$9; and heifers, at \$8.40. During this boom period few

steers with merit and finish sold below \$8, and an army of merely warmed-up cattle went over the scales at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per cwt. The whole price-list moved up in unison, low-cost grass steers advancing \$1 to \$1.25 per cwt.

### Eastern Feed-Lots Cleaned up During Labor Trouble

One reason for the advance was that eastern killers cleaned up practically all the marketable cattle in feed-lots east of the Indiana-Illinois line during the strike period, shutting off supply from that quarter. The upturn subsequent to August 13, which was uninterrupted, restored confidence, incidentally putting the residue of the crop into strong hands, and, as supply moderated, eastern shippers were at their wits' ends to replenish coolers. Buyers, who during the debacle had announced intention to put the best steers the market afforded on an 8½-cent basis, rode early and hard to buy such bullocks as were then difficult to get over the scales at \$8.25 to \$9, being compelled to pay \$9.50 to \$10 in many instances. Consumer demand for low-cost beef developed a broad outlet for light, common steers, previously selling in the \$3.50 to \$4.50 range, at an advance of \$1 per cwt. or more.

### Cows Lag Behind Procession

Heifers responded to a \$6 to \$6.75 market, fed yearlings of the female sex working up to \$7 to \$8.25, followed closely by grassers. A stubborn cow market, especially in the middle grades, selling at \$3.25 to \$4.50, did not fare so well, but canning and cutting cows moved up 75 cents to \$2 to \$3, and fat kosher cows went to \$5 to \$6. Recent action by the cow market puzzles the trade, as its decrepit condition cannot be attributed to government slaughter, that product not entering commercial channels.

### Grassers Share in Uplift

Western grass cattle felt the impetus, killing grades gaining \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt.; stockers, 50 to 75 cents. On the Chicago market, Wyoming stockers sold mainly at \$4.50 to \$5.25; choice yearlings, at \$5.50. Western grass heifers were

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in demand at \$4 to \$5.50, a raft of grass cows cashing at \$3.50 to \$4.50. Choice Colorado cows weighing 1,200 pounds, and thick-fleshed, realized \$5.50; western canners and cutters finding a \$2.25 to \$3 market.

#### Feeders Make Rich Harvest

Feeders have garnered a harvest on the bulge, margins between initial and selling cost ranging from \$4 to \$6 per cwt. Since the fat-cattle market worked out of its winter rut, beef-makers have been able to recoup 1933 losses and add considerable to their bank accounts, despite advancing feed cost; which is merely another demonstration that more money can be made on high-price than on low-price corn. Of course, much of this velvet was accumulated at the expense of western growers, from whom feeders "stole" a crop of thin steers last fall. Calf-feeders, maturing yearlings selling at \$9 to \$10 per cwt., have fared well. One instance is recorded where a drove of Texas calves, costing \$22 per head laid down in the feed-lot last fall, realized \$10.85 per cwt. at Chicago on August 28, weighing 1,100 pounds. In more than one completed transaction the margin was \$6.50 per cwt. Net profits exceeded those of the war period, as gains cost less.

#### Smaller Receipts of Drought Cattle Ease Pressure

A diminishing supply of government cattle at Chicago eased pressure on slaughter facilities, as packers turned their attention to "house" steers selling in the \$5 to \$8.25 range. Government cattle had priority at the shambles for several weeks, when killers were frequently 10,000 head behind deliveries, with other thousands held at feeding stations adjacent, waiting to be ordered in. Distribution of these cattle was in the nature of a boon.

## Perry Park Ranch Herefords

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40 BULLS : : : 30 FEMALES

#### Hogs Double in Price

Hogs advanced from a \$5.10 top, when the market opened after the strike, to \$8.05 on August 29. For twelve days in succession the advance was 15 to 25 cents per cwt. without interruption. Average cost of packer and shipper droves at Chicago reached \$7.57 on August 29, to which must be added the \$2.25 tax. Early in January the low average cost was \$3.10—an appreciation of \$4.47 per cwt. This affords slight consolation to those who cashed the bulk of the crop from January to July at a range of \$3.50 to \$4.75 per cwt., from which an expense of 40 to 50 cents per cwt. may be deducted. This upturn encountered no opposition from processors, who were under no necessity to buy many hogs or pay out much money in processing taxes. They viewed the rise complacently, as they saw the value of their inventories soar, negotiating with jobbers and exporters, who suddenly realized that the long bargain sale was at an end and scurried to replenish stocks. Pork loins went to 25 cents per pound, lard to 9 cents, and cured meats rose in proportion. Late in July an expanding movement of new-crop shoats checked the rise, heralding what may happen when the main crop gets in motion.

#### Lamb Trade Fails to Keep Pace

Lamb trade made feeble efforts to trail the price procession, but did a poor job. Early in August the top price reached \$7.75, from which it slumped to \$7, thousands of western lambs cashing at \$6.75, and natives at \$6.25 to \$6.75. Fat ewes declined 50 cents per cwt. to \$1.50 to \$2.75, with no substantial increase in supply. A peculiar phase of lamb trade was free buying of second cuts of western lamb bands that usually go to feeders at \$6 to \$6.25, indicating a healthy trade in low-cost meat, as sorting was heavy, running as high as 50 per cent. Feeders got a few lambs at \$5.60 to \$6.10.

#### Easier Tone Prevails at End of Month

At the end of August the whole trade displayed an easier tone, but nothing unhealthy developed. Fat cattle are in strong hands, and will be conservatively marketed; the new hog crop is not ready, and will not be until October; but a heavy September run of lambs is on the horizon, and, unless the wool market is equal to a better performance, killers may hold prices down through September, when the bulk of westerns will move.

#### Advancing Values to Check Relief Buying

Government cattle-buying in the distress area is working along toward the 5,000,000 mark, being well past 4,000,000 by the end of August. Possibly 6,000,000 head may be garnered before the campaign ends, but the advance in values will have a pronounced tendency to check buying for relief purposes, especially if the government agency makes adequate feed loans to winter the remnant of western herds—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

#### STOCK-CATTLE PRICES DUE FOR RISE

J. E. P.

ON A \$3 TO \$5 BASIS—THE RANGE IN WHICH beef-makers are getting the bulk of their replacement cattle—investment cannot be criticized. Stock cattle are so seriously out of line with feeding lambs, selling in the \$5.75 to \$6.25 range, that they should be worth more money. During the latter half of August, prices advanced 50 to 75 cents per cwt., Montana stockers with quality reaching \$5.50.



Although early August weather played havoc with the growing corn crop, heavy precipitation subsequently revived Corn Belt pastures in surprising manner, incidentally creating a wealth of winter roughage, which will make it possible for farmers to carry light cattle through the winter for summer beef-making. Demand for fleshy feeders has been negligible, although sales of warmed-up steers, for a quick turn on corn, have been made at \$6.50 to \$6.75. These cattle will be crowded at the feed-box and turned out at the earliest opportunity, and, should the operation prove profitable, will be promptly replaced with another set.

Such is demand for low-cost beef, however, that feeders in quest of fleshy light steers selling in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range are in keen competition with killers, who have a broad outlet for the product. Fat cattle selling from \$9 up are out of the reach of an army of beef-eaters, and will be if current prices are maintained. That stockers and feeders are out of line with fat bullocks of any weight is axiomatic, and sooner or later the gap will close.

Present indications are that replacement cattle will be in demand all winter, as finishing periods will be short. At current feed prices, gains cost about 15 cents a pound—a condition calculated to send warmed-up, low-dressing steers to the butcher. The outcome of the maturing corn crop, now definitely known, insures substantially reduced beef tonnage, as much of the feeding area will garner roughage and cobs. The vanishing stalk-field will deprive farmer-feeders of a source of cheap fall gains, accelerating marketing. Millions of acres of corn have been either siloed or cut and stacked, and a standing stalk-field will be a novelty by the time snow flies.

Stock-cattle prices uncovered the low spot of the season at mid-August, bargain-hunters coming into the market coincident with the advance in fat cattle, which had the logical effect of infusing confidence. Statistics on the movement are confusing, as they included many government-owned animals sent to pastures south of the Ohio River for winter relief purposes.

### COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on August 31, 1934, compared with August 3, 1934, and September 1, 1933 (per 100 pounds):

SLAUGHTER STEERS:			
	Aug. 31, 1934	Aug. 3, 1934	Sept. 1, 1933
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$ 9.75-10.75	\$ 8.25-10.00	\$ 6.50- 7.25
Good	7.50-10.25	6.25- 8.75	5.50- 6.65
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.)	8.75-10.25	7.50- 9.25	6.50- 7.15
Good	6.75- 9.75	6.00- 8.25	5.25- 6.65
Medium (900 lbs. up)	5.50- 8.00	4.25- 6.75	4.25- 5.75
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	6.25- 9.00	5.75- 8.25	5.25- 7.00
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	6.00- 8.25	5.00- 7.50	4.75- 6.50
COWS:			
Good	4.25- 6.00	3.00- 4.75	3.50- 4.50
CALVES:			
Good to Choice	4.50- 7.00	4.00- 6.25	4.00- 5.00
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice	4.75- 5.75	4.00- 5.50	4.00- 5.00
Common to Medium	3.00- 4.75	2.25- 4.25	2.50- 4.00
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	7.75- 7.95	4.90- 5.10	4.00- 4.50
LAMBS:			
Good to Choice (90 lbs. down)	6.40- 6.85	6.25- 7.00	6.50- 7.25
EWES:			
Good to Choice	1.75- 2.75	1.75- 2.75	1.50- 3.00

### LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, SHIPMENTS, and federally inspected slaughter of live stock at sixty-two markets for the month of July, 1934, compared with July, 1933, and for the seven months ending July, 1934 and 1933:

#### RECEIPTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
Cattle*	2,128,968†	1,008,327	8,661,354†	6,305,372
Calves	855,825†	448,133	4,096,177†	3,087,570
Hogs	2,519,407	2,871,352	20,394,346	20,899,024
Sheep	2,152,081	2,228,071	12,760,013	14,371,801

#### TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
Cattle*	1,000,244	334,068	3,286,059	2,293,629
Calves	231,097	126,210	1,113,745	913,321
Hogs	731,548	735,994	5,964,534	5,401,667
Sheep	1,155,286	1,105,428	5,888,404	6,390,277

#### STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
Cattle*	438,647	95,812	1,170,193	824,392
Calves	41,637	14,501	183,646	163,702
Hogs	45,730	42,203	270,924	230,946
Sheep	189,643	108,304	864,810	701,508

#### SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
Cattle*	1,191,181†	752,105	6,072,444†	4,634,875
Calves	769,989†	401,329	3,939,609†	2,804,479
Hogs	3,323,440	3,914,452	26,579,295	28,622,629
Sheep	1,293,812	1,398,742	8,769,043	9,798,159

\*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

‡Approximately 285,000 government drought cattle and 196,000 calves included in July, 1934, and 385,646 such cattle and 255,206 calves included in the seven-month total.

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## MARKET PROSPECTS

J. E. P.

## Cattle

**W**HATEVER WINTER CATTLE TRADE PRICE developments may be, short beef production is inevitable. By November, if not earlier, the crop of steers in feeders' hands will be exhausted, long-fed bullocks will disappear, and killers will run into a supply of light, merely warmed-up cattle dressing under 60 per cent. Already bullocks weighing from 1,300 pounds up are scarce, in contrast with the feast at the corresponding period of 1933, and at the new cost of gains there will be no incentive to put on weight. During the next ninety days replacement in feed-lots will be on a restricted scale. Steers will go in at light weight, and go to the butcher weighing 1,000 to 1,150 pounds. A large proportion of roughage, shredded corn, and soy-bean hay will go into the ration, corn will be handled economically, and it is doubtful if any considerable amount of money will be expended for concentrates, as cottonseed products are high. Dousing fodder with diluted blackstrap molasses will be a popular practice.

The residue of the old crop of fat cattle has worked into such strong hands that it will be marketed conservatively. When car-lot show time comes around, weight and finish will be at a substantial premium, as a few finished cattle can always be used. If killers are unable to get weight, their customers will be under the necessity of adjusting themselves to supply conditions.

How far the ultimate consumer will go is a debatable question. As beef is always a reliable barometer of industrial conditions, semi-paralysis of industry by nation-wide strikes will exert an influence. The August advance in fat-cattle prices put retail cost sharply higher, but, as pork was out of line with beef, the public went along. Late in August fresh pork loins soared to 20 to 25 cents a pound wholesale, good-to-choice beef carcasses selling at 12½ to 14½ cents. Assuming that the pork market at that stage was abnormally high, and that a free movement of the new pig crop will adjust prices, pork will again enter into competition with beef.

Corn-crop influence will be felt in the cattle market earlier than usual, and four to five months earlier than during the previous corresponding period. Recalling demoralized cattle-trade conditions of last December and January, when 1,400- to 2,000-pound fat steers sold at \$3.50 to \$4.50 per cwt., it is logical to expect that, with this supply eliminated, light cattle will benefit. The product of 800- to 1,100-pound steers does not encounter sales resistance in distributive channels, when unburdened by that of heavy cattle. Supply will take care of itself; values will be up to the consumer.

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## Hogs

A hog market on which packer droves cost \$9.50 to \$9.75 per cwt., including the tax, may be regarded as ephemeral. By October, prices will be substantially lower, especially if processors have cleaned up floor stocks meanwhile. The 1934 crop of corn will yield less hog feed than any gathered since the Corn Belt was claimed by the plow. Corn fodder and soy-bean hay may suffice for warming up steers and lambs, but, unless a miracle can be invoked, will not fatten hogs, and, with corn already worth 80 cents and climbing toward the dollar mark, carrying young hogs into the 250- to 300-pound stage will be economically impossible. Growers are now getting only \$7.25 to \$8 at the market, depending on the government bounty to break even. The new pig crop is short, and a large section of it will go to the butcher weighing 175 to 225 pounds, insuring substantially less tonnage than at any time since 1914, when the corn crop froze. The season's run of retired sows has been closely marketed in a whirlwind finish at \$7 to \$7.25 per cwt., Chicago basis.

## Lambs

Winter lamb-feeding will be cut in two, both east and west of the Missouri River. Colorado and Nebraska will be far short both in numbers and in tonnage. Feeding lambs have been selling 75 cents to \$1 per cwt. below fats, and, as killers are slaughtering a large percentage of second cuts of western hands, they are making a serious draft on winter supplies. Such lambs as are going into feed-lots are destined to go to the butcher early, lacking both finish and weight. Feeders are basing investment cost on a high-level fat-lamb market after the turn of the year.

## General

Assuming that consumption is maintained, replenishing the national larder with meat will be a serious problem. Other than the government accumulation, which is destined for indigent consumption, no beef is going into storage, the recent huge accumulation of hog product is dwindling rapidly, and no lamb or mutton is going to the freezer. Provision trade is moving rapidly from a long period of surplus production, the sequence of two huge corn crops, into one of relative, if not actual, scarcity. If consumers are able to go the price pace, high live-stock values are inevitable.

## HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

**B**ELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS OF frozen and cured meats, lard, poultry, creamery butter, and eggs on August 1, 1934, as compared with August 1, 1933, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds except as otherwise noted):

Commodity	Aug. 1, 1934	Aug. 1, 1933	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	40,237,000	27,972,000	29,015,000
Cured beef*.....	21,138,000	13,851,000	15,009,000
Lamb and mutton.....	1,517,000	1,594,000	2,323,000
Frozen pork.....	180,557,000	228,177,000	190,936,000
Dry salt pork*.....	92,388,000	146,303,000	142,484,000
Pickled pork*.....	370,669,000	433,842,000	392,377,000
Miscellaneous.....	78,628,000	74,522,000	73,363,000
Total meats.....	785,134,000	926,261,000	845,507,000
Lard.....	209,628,000	219,259,000	156,833,000
Frozen poultry.....	44,824,000	44,970,000	39,458,000
Creamery butter.....	108,742,000	150,934,000	134,597,000
Eggs (case equivalent).....	12,421,000	12,583,000	12,144,000

\*Cured or in process of cure.



## WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

**WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED** meats at Chicago on August 31, 1934, compared with August 1, 1934, and September 1, 1933, were as below (per 100 pounds):

## FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

STEER (700 lbs. up):	Aug. 31, 1934	Aug. 1, 1934	Sept. 1, 1933
Choice	\$15.00-16.00	\$12.50-13.50	\$ 9.50-10.00
Good	14.00-15.00	11.50-12.50	8.50- 9.50
STEER (500 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	14.00-15.50	11.50-13.00	9.50-10.50
Good	13.00-14.50	10.50-12.00	8.50-10.00
YEARLING STEER:			
Choice	13.50-14.50	11.50-12.50	10.00-10.50
Good	12.50-13.50	10.50-11.50	9.00-10.00
COW:			
Good	9.50-10.50	7.50- 9.00	7.00- 8.00
VEAL:			
Choice	12.00-13.00	9.00-10.00	12.00-13.00
Good	11.00-12.00	7.50- 9.00	11.00-12.00

## FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMB (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$15.00-16.00	\$13.50-14.50	\$13.00-14.00
Good	14.00-15.00	12.00-13.00	12.00-13.00
MUTTON:			
Good	7.00- 8.00	6.00- 7.00	5.50- 6.50

## FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-12 lb. average	\$23.50-25.00	\$14.00-15.00	\$11.00-12.50

## HIDE MARKET ON DOUBTFUL BASIS

J. E. P.

**BY FITS AND STARTS, THE HIDE MARKET SHOWS** signs of animation, but the current movement is almost entirely of packer take-off. Weeks of apparently futile conversation regarding disposal of government hides have resulted in temporary removal of that incubus. Relieved of this burden, the packer market resumed functioning; but ignoring the fact that every hide peeled from a government-owned animal figures in the visible supply is senseless. Resumption of packer trade was on a basis about 40 per cent lower than at the corresponding period of 1933, although all steers are selling at substantially higher levels. The late August market on packer steer hides was in a range of 7½ to 8½ cents a pound; cows, of 6½ to 7 cents. Country hides are nominal at 4½ to 6 cents.

Shoe production has been affected by curtailed consumption. Cobblers are as busy as during the war period, prolonging the life of an average pair of shoes several months. Never before has shoe-repairing been so cheap, or more efficient. Ingenious methods for lengthening, widening, and otherwise making footgear wearable have been devised, and rubber-makers are doing a rushing business in soles which may be readily cemented without labor cost. Many people are attaching these soles to new shoes, protecting leather from wear.

Harness trade petered out after makers had accumulated stocks in anticipation of a broad market, farmers repairing ancient harness to meet an emergency.

At this writing the whole hide market is on a doubtful basis. Stocks of both hides and leather are ample, if not excessive. Shoe-retailers are carrying heavy shelf stocks, and are anxious to reduce inventories, resulting in price-slashing sales. What will eventually become of government hides is a serious problem, especially to the big tanning concerns. One proposition is to tan these hides, on the theory that such

processing will create work. Possibly, in prosecuting its relief program, the government will make an experiment of providing the indigent element with shoes. Leather trade is nervous over this prospect, and will be until a definite government policy is announced.

## WOOL TRADE CONTINUES LETHARGIC

J. E. P.

**A** LABORED PROSPECTUS CONCERNING WOOL-market performance, when and if the present comatose period culminates in actual sales, is little short of absurd. For months trade-writers have been prolific in grinding out this type of literature, endeavoring to conceal the fact that the market has ceased to function—temporarily at least. Such trite phrases as "Confidence is not entirely lacking;" "More buyers are manifesting interest;" "Brisbane sales were more satisfactory than expected;" "Expressions of market opinion indicate an improving sentiment;" and "Encouraging trends are not lacking," are "coppered"—to use faro vernacular—with "Lack of demand for goods, however, was reported to have induced buyers to withhold definite commitments;" "Few inquiries are being received at the moment;" "Prices are nominal, as there is no trading at the moment;" "Quotations are unchanged from last week, but they are nominal, in view of the absence of sales;" "A broader inquiry for fleeces in the past few days has given little encouragement to some members of the trade," and "A few houses are getting some inquiry, but these inquiries are not resulting in sales, despite the stagnant condition of the market."

The foregoing sentences are from the daily reports made

## Protest Increase in Stocker and Feeder Freight Charges

**D**EFENDING both range growers and Corn Belt feeders, the National Live Stock Marketing Association on August 31, 1934, entered a protest before the Interstate Commerce Commission against the rail carriers' petition, dated July 19, 1934 (known as Docket No. 17,000, Part 9), to obtain authority to apply the fat live-stock rates on shipments of stocker and feeder animals to all points in the Western District, subject to readjustment to the 85 per cent basis upon proof of subsequent reshipment by rail.

This petition, if granted, would tend to stimulate the production of live stock in the mid-western states and would penalize the range grower—a situation which would add an unwarranted burden on the live-stock industry.

## National Live Stock Marketing Association

160 North LaSalle Street,

Chicago, Illinois

by the government reporter at Boston, whose ingeniousness in making copy on a non-existent mart is equal to that of the New England weather sharp who issued a forecast for the ensuing twenty-four hours, embracing every degree of temperature, from zero to torridity, arousing Mark Twain to ecstatic satire. The bald fact is that the wool market has ceased to function, for the obvious reason that the goods market has gone to sleep. Little wonder, then, that millmen are not buying wool and are indifferent to an impending, if not actual, strike by this time. When the market resumes, as it will ultimately, it will be time enough to speculate on intrinsic values. Making daily quotations on a guess basis is nonsensical.

Present conditions in the wool market and goods trade go back to the miniature boom of 1933, when consumers with depleted wardrobes indulged in a buying rush, under threats of advancing prices. They bought clothing for both sexes, cash and on time, stocking up to such an extent that the majority will not go ragged for many a long day. Back in the period of apparent prosperity, several million second-hand suits of clothes were exported to the Orient yearly; under present conditions, clothing-renovators are busier than manufacturers, the old-clothes industry having reached the suspension stage.

A frantic advertising campaign, with the object of reducing shelf stocks of clothing, has been in progress all summer, with negligible results. A mild winter insured a carry-over of overcoats, creating inventories that cannot be liquidated until the thermometer seeks lower levels. Summer trade in cotton goods has been healthy, owing to high temperatures all over the country, but sales of woolen clothing have been practically suspended. Costs were boosted last fall, making trade stagnate and necessitating price-slashing recently. Retailers are no longer advertising price-raising threats, but are invoking catch phrases to attract the evanescent consumer.

What the wool market needs is resumption of clothing-purchasing. Conversation does not make a market.

## Salt Lake Union Stock Yards

North Salt Lake, Utah

In addition to the plant of the Cudahy Packing Company, adjoining our yards, which buys for local and coast plants, Salt Lake City has four other packers and other coast buyers here also.

Two daily trains to LOS ANGELES and SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS from our yards.

For Best of Service to Western Markets

BILL TO FEED AT  
NORTH SALT LAKE

J. H. MANDERFIELD, General Manager

# FOREIGN

## LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, July 23, 1934.

**B**EEF-CATTLE BREEDERS IN AUSTRALIA, LIKE those in North America, are still in the trough of the depression, though we on this side of the Pacific are perhaps more fortunate at the moment in the matter of weather conditions. The bulk of the breeding and fattening country in the north had sufficient summer rains to assure feed for the now current winter season; consequently stock in those parts is holding its condition well. Farther south—i. e., in the states of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, which are dependent on winter rains—the grazing areas are becoming dry, and a drought is feared. That country is chiefly devoted to sheep-raising, though naturally cattle are run on the rough pastures and in the hill districts.

Values for fats in the north, which during the beef-export season are governed by the oversea parity of frozen beef, remain on a distressingly low level. For instance, packers operating in the Brisbane district (south Queensland) are offering \$4.54 per 100 pounds, frozen weight, delivered at door of plants, for first ox beef, and proportionately lower rates for seconds, cows, etc. Despite this low range, packers are finding no difficulty in obtaining supplies to keep their plants running. This is probably due in part to a fear that the British government, in its efforts to lift home-produced cattle prices, may impose some restriction on imports of frozen beef from the Dominions into the United Kingdom during the second half of 1934. Imports of foreign frozen and chilled beef have been limited, and in the case of frozen progressively reduced, since the end of 1932, but the cattle industry in Britain is still very much in the doldrums. There has been a good deal of talk of the Dominions being asked to reduce their shipments for an unspecified, but not long, period. If the matter is put to Australia, no doubt she will agree with good grace. Perhaps, when all is said and done, it may be a better proposition to receive a near or actually payable price for 80 or 90 per cent of the exportable surplus than to sell the whole surplus at rates that do not cover costs of production.

Should our exports to Great Britain have to be limited during the coming six months, the only feasible course appears to be for the surplus cattle to be held over until next year. Whatever may happen with the rest of the world, a reasonably free flow of products between Britain and her Dominions is looked for with confidence. There may be temporary restrictions to meet peculiar circumstances, but the interests of both are too closely allied for any permanent limitation of trade to be attempted.

Unfortunately many of the markets outside Britain, which as recently as four years ago provided a valuable outlet for frozen beef, are now closed. Germany, Belgium, France, and Italy, which used to import quite a lot of beef, have taken little or none from Australia during the past year, while the small trade with Japan and the Philippine Islands has shrunk considerably. A few years back 40 per cent and more of Australia's total export of frozen beef



found markets outside Great Britain. Today all but about 10 per cent has to be shipped to Britain.

The out-turn of a number of recent experimental shipments of chilled beef from Australia and New Zealand gives grounds for the hope that these countries before long will be in position to export a fair proportion of their beef in a soft condition. Some little time ago developments on the scientific side of refrigeration demonstrated that actual hard freezing was not necessary to check the growth of mold on beef held in cold store for more than about a fortnight. Provided absolute cleanliness is observed, and with a 10 per cent impregnation of carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere of the chamber, beef was held in cold store for as much as fifty days without deterioration at chilling, as distinct from freezing, temperatures.

As no insurmountable difficulty was experienced in applying the shore technique to ships' holds, several refrigerated vessels on the Australian run have fitted chambers for the carriage of chilled beef. Not far short of twenty small parcels have been shipped to Great Britain to date. Mold was occasionally in evidence at first, but the knowledge gained from the partial failures has led to more care being exercised at meat-packing houses and when loading to prevent contamination with mold spores. Lately chilled beef has landed in London fifty days and more after slaughter in Australia in something very closely approximating perfect condition. When sold on the Smithfield (London) market, the beef has usually realized about one-half cent per pound less than the choicest Argentine chilled, and one and a half to two cents above Australian frozen, which must be considered satisfactory.

It is fully realized that Australia has a long way to go before she can be any sort of rival of Argentina. For one thing, the majority of the herds have to be built up in point of breeding, early maturity, and quality. There are excellent herds in different parts of the country, but it must be confessed that most leave a good deal to be desired in the foregoing respects.

MELBOURNE, August 15, 1934.

The strength of the demand for pedigree bulls at the auction sales held in connection with the principal live-stock exhibitions can usually be taken as a fair indication of the optimism, or otherwise, of cattle-breeders in the future of their industry. At the Royal National Show in Brisbane, Queensland, last week the offerings were about up to the average, and, though bids for some lots did not reach the reserve set by owners, the general tone was distinctly better than of recent years. The average of prices realized at auction was also higher than for some time past.

The normal winter flush of fat cattle having eased off, prices of steers for immediate slaughter have firmed a little, though they are still at a low level. Packers in north Queensland have lately been buying on the basis of \$4 per 100 pounds, frozen weights, delivered at door of plants, for first ox beef. The current purchasing rate in central Queensland is up to \$4.50 per 100 for first-grade bullocks. In southern Queensland packers are paying up to \$4.70 a hundred delivered for lines bought in the country, but prime light steers of special quality are fetching as much as \$5 a hundred in the Brisbane yards. These latter are intended for the butchering trade in Brisbane, and some of the beef is being shipped chilled to the southern states, where values are higher. For instance, good light steers are selling at up to \$7.70 per 100 pounds in the Sydney and Melbourne yards, and \$6.75 in Adelaide.

It may be wondered why the better prices obtaining in

Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide do not cause a rush of northern cattle to the south. As a matter of fact, most of the relatively few that are well placed do drift south, but, broadly speaking, the long distances of the Queensland fattening areas from the southern markets, plus expensive and inadequate transport facilities out of the cattle areas, are sufficient to check any large move in that direction.

The other day I came across authentic figures with reference to the Adelaide market, which is the present outlet for the bulk of cattle fattened in the far interior of the continent. After pointing out that many consignments have to travel hundreds of miles to the railhead, it is stated that the cost of droving, rail freight, and selling commission averages \$19.20 a head on bullocks from the Northern Territory, \$14.40 from western Queensland, and up to \$9.60 from western New South Wales. At today's values in Adelaide, those cattle from the inland areas are not worth more than \$6 per 100 pounds, dressed weights; so it will be seen that there is mortal little left for the breeder.

Reference has been made in previous contributions to THE PRODUCER to the satisfactory progress made in combating prickly pear in Queensland and New South Wales. Members of the Commonwealth Prickly Pear Board have just returned from an extended tour through tracts of previously dense pear country, and have issued a most enthusiastic report regarding the good work being done by the cactoblastis grub, and to a less extent by the cochineal insect, in controlling the pest.

The report says that when the biological campaign was commenced a few years ago an area of about 60,000,000 acres in Queensland and New South Wales was either infested with pear or was subject to infestation. Many millions of acres were densely infested, and that country was regarded by all as "lost territory," as it was beyond clearing by all known means of chemical or mechanical agencies. These lands have now been recovered for the states concerned. The whole of the original growth of the major pest pears has already been destroyed, with the exception of certain small areas in New South Wales.

The board is satisfied that the position in the two states in regard to regrowth is now much more satisfactory than it was even twelve months ago, and the results prove conclu-

## Not interested??



You commercial cattlemen, raising stockers and feeders, and using range bulls, may feel you are not interested in any Hereford breeder's auction SALE. However, there are no more discriminating buyers than Hereford breeders, and when they put their stamp of approval on such an offering as you will find in the WHR Sale, you can rely upon their judgment. Where they find good Herefords, you too will be satisfied. We invite you to attend our Hereford Sale—Wednesday, October 10, at the ranch.

Let your next Bulls be  
WHR PRINCE DOMINOS.  
They are the right kind.

WHEN YOU BUY WHR BULLS— YOU BUY THE BEST

**WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH, Cheyenne**

sively that the board and its officers were fully justified in their opinion that not only the original pear, but regrowth also, would be destroyed from time to time by biological agencies.

A consignment of Polled Shorthorns that is due to arrive in Sydney from the United States early next week is arousing great interest among cattlemen on this side. It is understood to comprise two bulls and ten heifers, and to include Comrie Standard—the grand champion bull at the last Chicago International Live Stock Exposition—as well as the first-prize pair of heifers at the same show. The cattle were selected personally by Hugh Munro while in America last winter, and are said to be valued at \$50,000. Probably that figure includes transport costs. The bulls and heifers are to go to the Munros' Gundebri stud, Merriwa, New South Wales, where there is already a high-class herd of Scotch Shorthorns. The freighter "Golden Coast," which is carrying the New South Wales consignment, landed another American-bred Polled Shorthorn, called Highland Stamp, at Wellington, New Zealand. This was for John Donald—a well-known Shorthorn breeder of Westmere, Wanganui.

### CANADA ADOPTS AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ACT

**S**WEEPING AUTHORITY TO REGULATE IMPORTS, exports, and domestic marketing of all natural products, except those of the extractive industries, such as mines, quarries, and oil wells, has been placed in the hands of the Canadian Governor in Council, under the provisions of the Canadian Natural Products Marketing Law enacted by Parliament in June, according to a statement issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The law empowers both the Canadian government and organized producers to set up and put into operation codes or marketing schemes, which become law simply by approval of the Governor in Council. It is to be administered mainly through a Dominion Marketing Board, headed by a minister to be designated by the Governor in Council.

Since the provincial governments have sole control over trade and commerce within their respective borders, they are expected to enact supplementary legislation patterned after the Natural Products Marketing Act, in order that the powers of the act may be applied to intra-provincial marketing. Several of the provinces have already enacted such legislation.

The Dominion Marketing Board can regulate the time and place at which, and designate the agency through which, any regulated product shall be marketed. It can decree the manner of distribution, the quantity and quality, grade or class of the regulated product that shall be marketed at any time, and it may entirely prohibit the marketing of any such product. It can compel all persons engaged in the production or marketing of a regulated product to register their names, addresses, and occupation, and to take out licenses, the licenses being subject to cancellation by the board for violation of any provision of the act or of any regulation made under it. It can require full and periodic information in regard to production and marketing from all persons engaged in it, as well as access to inspect their books and premises.

The law recognizes the principle of compensation for losses sustained as a result of the operation of marketing control schemes. Any person who sustains a loss by withholding from the market or forwarding to a specified market any regulated product in accordance with an order of the Dominion Marketing Board may be compensated for such loss. Compensation covering losses due to depreciation of currencies is also included.

One of the features of the new measure is the authority which it gives the minister designated to administer the act to conduct investigations into all operations connected with marketing, adaptation for sale, processing, or conversion of any natural product, whether regulated or not, for the purpose of ascertaining the spread received by any person. It provides that any person who charges any spread which is excessive, results in undue enhancement of prices, or otherwise restrains or injures trade, is liable to a heavy penalty.

Another outstanding feature is the authority given the Governor in Council to regulate imports and exports of natural products. Under this provision, the governor may regulate the importation of any natural product which enters Canada in competition with a regulated product. He may also restrict the exportation from Canada of any natural product specified in the act. Control over imports and exports is to be accomplished by a licensing system, under which no one except holders of licenses can import or export.

### NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

#### Sheep Dying from Drought in England

The United States is not the only country suffering from drought. In England, sheep are reported to be dying by the hundreds from a disease caused by lack of rain.

#### International Wheat Conference Fails to Agree

The international wheat conference at London has adjourned until November, without having accomplished its purpose of extending acreage reduction and fixing export quotas for the crop year beginning August 1.

#### Export Premium on French Wheat

Effective June 15, the French government has authorized the payment of an export premium of 90 francs per quintal (\$1.62 per bushel) on about 3,417,000 bushels of wheat. Export of further contingents will depend upon the size of the coming crop.

#### France Raises Duty on Pork

The duty on fresh pork imported into France has been increased from 260 to 400 francs a quintal (about 7.8 and 12 cents a pound). At the same time, the import license tax has been reduced from 100 to 30 francs a quintal (about 3 and 0.9 cents a pound).

#### British Beef Prices No Higher

Prices on cured pork have been raised in Great Britain as a consequence of the Ottawa agreement putting foreign exporters on a quota basis, but, "in spite of quotas, little or no success, and certainly no permanent success, has attended the attempt to raise prices on beef," according to Stanley Baldwin, former Prime Minister.

#### Canada Considering Bacon-Grading Regulations

In order to insure the maintenance of a satisfactory quality standard in Canada's bacon exports to Great Britain, an order in council issued by the Dominion government authorizes the Minister of Agriculture to license exporters, provided these conform to certain regulations as to grading, marking, and packing. Three grades of bacon are to be established. Under the Ottawa agreement, Canada is guaranteed an annual free export to Great Britain of up to 280,000,000 pounds of good-quality cured pork.



# TRADE REVIEW

## EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

IN THE FOLLOWING TABLES WE PRESENT FIGURES showing exports and imports of live animals, meat products, hides and skins, and unmanufactured wool and mohair for the first six months of the current year, as compared with the same period in 1933. The most notable changes are found in the quantity of fresh pork exported in 1934, which represents an increase of more than 300 per cent over 1933, and in imports of wool, which have been doubled:

### LIVE ANIMALS

(Numbers)  
EXPORTS

	1934	1933
Cattle .....	1,708	1,153
Hogs .....	2,309	11,496
Sheep and goats .....	192	258
Horses .....	1,054	209
Mules, asses, and burros .....	1,330	914
Totals .....	6,593	14,030

### IMPORTS

	1934	1933
Cattle .....	50,562	55,491
Sheep and goats .....	1,351	31
Horses .....	2,342	1,863
Totals .....	54,255	57,385
Hogs (pounds) .....	266	4,814

### MEAT PRODUCTS

(Pounds)  
EXPORTS

	1934	1933
Beef and veal, fresh .....	2,313,885	1,268,157
Beef and veal, pickled .....	7,260,387	5,392,753
Horse meat .....	975,475	.....
Mutton and lamb, fresh .....	318,247	135,164
Pork, fresh .....	18,425,014	4,536,613
Pork, pickled .....	9,162,280	6,691,233
Bacon .....	10,321,643	7,548,885
Cumberland and Wiltshire sides .....	191,468	712,636
Hams and shoulders .....	30,791,452	37,882,909
Poultry and game, fresh .....	1,498,744	.....
Sausage .....	1,252,205	.....
Canned meats .....	8,427,699	6,568,167

### IMPORTS

	1934	1933
Beef and veal, fresh .....	104,384	266,815
Pork, fresh .....	95,008	375,848
Mutton and lamb, fresh .....	2,287	13,211
Other fresh meats .....	148,334	.....
Beef and veal, cured .....	354,355	365,009
Hams and bacon .....	399,195	993,817
Pork, pickled .....	239,397	366,232
Poultry, fresh .....	78,557	.....
Poultry, prepared .....	180,307	.....
Canned meats .....	15,725,496	17,772,792

### EDIBLE ANIMAL OILS AND FATS

(Pounds)  
EXPORTS

	1934	1933
Lard .....	274,128,324	306,262,261
Neutral lard .....	2,090,976	2,781,286
Oleo oil .....	11,944,391	18,298,316
Totals .....	288,163,691	327,341,863

### IMPORTS

	1934	1933
Edible animal oils and fats .....	34,831	56,249

### HIDES AND SKINS

(Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	1934	1933
Cattle hides .....	7,951,651	10,072,449
Kip and calf skins .....	2,597,923	2,983,699
Sheep and goat skins .....	829,759	791,495
Others .....	1,693,916	1,721,366
Totals .....	13,073,249	15,569,009

#### IMPORTS

	1934	1933
Cattle hides .....	40,057,750	38,742,381
Buffalo hides .....	334,044	279,831
Indian water-buffalo hides .....	616,839	.....
Kip and calf skins .....	11,669,395	20,846,069
Horse, colt, and ass hides .....	3,847,855	7,654,607
Sheep and lamb skins .....	19,643,761	21,374,166
Goat and kid skins .....	41,729,267	33,681,495
Kangaroo skins .....	162,504	242,544
Deer and elk skins .....	1,353,776	912,803
Reptile skins .....	1,197,683	646,532
Others .....	2,482,601	3,322,337
Totals .....	123,095,475	127,704,729

### WOOL

(Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	1934	1933
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured .....	96,487	7,336

#### IMPORTS

	1934	1933
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured .....	68,262,821	34,658,245

### FEEDSTUFFS

**C**OTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL ON SEPTEMBER 4 was quoted at \$38.50 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices at Omaha on August 31 were as follows: alfalfa (new crop)—choice leafy, \$22; No. 1, \$20 to \$21; standard leafy, \$19 to \$20; standard, \$18.50; No. 2, \$17 to \$18.50; No. 3, \$16; sample, \$13 to \$14; upland prairie (new crop)—No. 1, \$20.50; No. 2, \$19; No. 3, \$16 to \$18; sample, \$14.50 to \$15; midland prairie—No. 1, \$18; No. 2, \$16.50; sample, \$12 to \$14; mixed hay—No. 1, \$20; No. 2, \$18; No. 3, \$17.

## REGISTERED HEREFORD CATTLE

Choicest blood-lines; outstanding individuals; raised under actual range conditions

**T. E. MITCHELL & SON**

Tequesquite Ranch

**ALBERT, NEW MEXICO**

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## CATTLE ON FEED IN CORN BELT

The number of cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt states on August 1 this year was about 21 per cent smaller than the number on feed August 1, 1933, and was the smallest for this date in at least seven years, according to the estimate of the Department of Agriculture.

A decrease of 30 per cent or more in cattle-feeding during the coming fall and winter is indicated. The reports foreshadow sharp decreases in all states, with the decrease west of the Mississippi larger than east of the river. Comparison with similar reports received a year ago shows that feeders expect to buy a much smaller proportion of feeder calves than last year, an increased proportion of yearlings, and very few cows and heifers.

The estimated number of cattle on feed August 1, as a percentage of the number on August 1, 1933, for the different states is as follows: Ohio, 90; Indiana, 70; Illinois, 75; Michigan, 75; Wisconsin, 82; Minnesota, 75; Iowa, 82;

Missouri, 80; South Dakota, 77; Nebraska, 80; Kansas, 75; Corn Belt (weighted), 78.9.

## NEW COLLECTION OF MEAT RECIPES

"The Heinz Book of Meat Cookery," an attractive booklet just issued by the H. J. Heinz Company, constitutes another valuable addition to the list of publications dealing with the subject of cooking. Calling attention to modern methods of selection and preparation of meat, the booklet reflects the nation-wide interest which has been aroused in this field by such promotional work as that conducted by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

Illustrated throughout with colored pictures, the 110 pages contain recipes for the preparation of a large variety of appetizing meat dishes, the recipes given having been tested in the company's home economics laboratories.

## PLANT-HUNTERS AT WORK

Plant-explorers of the Department of Agriculture are making an intensified search at home and abroad for plants that will help control soil erosion. Two parties are abroad—one in Russia and one in Japan—and other parties will search the western half of the United States for wild plants that might be useful in the nation's program for conserving its soil.

H. L. Westover and C. R. Enlow will visit Russian Turkestan, Persia, and Afghanistan, looking for all kinds of soil-holding plants which show possibilities for the southwestern United States. This region of Asia is the home of many of our cultivated plants. Five years ago Mr. Westover spent a year in Turkestan and Persia, bringing back several strains of wilt-resistant alfalfa which are being used by federal plant-breeders to build up resistance to this disease in our domesticated alfalfas.

The second party of foreign-plant explorers is now in Japan. They expect to cover as much territory in the Far East as possible in the next eighteen months, looking primarily for grasses

and other forage plants that can be used to prevent soil erosion and to improve the range in the Southwest. H. G. MacMillan, a veteran plant-explorer, and J. L. Stephens, a forage-crops specialist of the department, comprise this party. These men will search for plants in the fringes of the Hingan Mountains—a region which has never been explored for grasses.

Plant-explorers of the department have been conspicuously successful in many instances in finding and introducing to American agriculture plants that proved of great value for specific purposes or for certain regions. Thirty years ago Mark Carlton went to Russia and returned with seed of durum wheat which proved well suited to the cold and rather dry areas of the North Central States, and is now the important crop there. Crested wheatgrass, a recent introduction from Siberia, is the most promising grass available for reseeding much of the surplus wheat acreage where low rainfall makes it difficult to start grass for pastures and meadows. From the Orient plant-explorers have brought back nearly 4,000 distinct strains of soy-beans, from which the experiment stations are selecting varieties best suited to their local conditions and to the demands of the market. From the Near East other explorers introduced the date palm, to make productive the desert regions of the Southwest. Other important introductions of foreign plants include the Washington navel orange, Sudan grass, Acala cotton, and lespedezas.

The hunt for useful wild plants in the United States is the first correlated effort to make the beginning on a nationwide inventory of our own unused plants. For this reason, officials are hopeful that some valuable plants may be found in our own backyard. Already one party of ten trained botanists is at work in Washington and Oregon. Another group will soon begin work in Arizona and New Mexico. Other parties will work in Texas and Oklahoma and North Carolina and Tennessee.

## SNAP FASTENERS ON GATES

"As wire gates are often opened accidentally by live stock, I have attached snaps to gate-fasteners on a number of gates in this neighborhood during the past nine months. They have proved so satisfactory that I am inclosing two photographs to illustrate the idea," writes Charles Sponsel, of Mancos, Colorado. "Gates are often closed carelessly by parties who have no personal inter-

**24th Annual  
PACIFIC  
INTERNATIONAL  
LIVESTOCK  
EXPOSITION**  
with  
  
**HORSE  
SHOW  
and  
RODEO**  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**  
**October 6 to 13**  
19 Shows in One—11 acres under one roof. Exhibits of pure-bred Livestock, Dogs, Poultry, Pet Stock, Wild Life, Land Products, Manufactured Products, 4-H Club and Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Work; Combination Horse Show and Indoor Rodeo.  
**LARGE PREMIUM LISTS**  
**REDUCED FARES—ALL LINE**



est in the live stock or the property. If a careless person closes a gate with a snap fastener, there is no danger that any animal will accidentally open it. The gate can be stretched tight, too."

Herewith is reproduced one of the pictures:



#### GOVERNMENT RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK REPORT

"Range and pasture feeds are very poor in the West, with a serious shortage of hay and feed crops, and live stock is in poor to fair condition," according to the August report issued by the Denver office of the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. "Generally, available feed supplies are far below normal winter requirements. The condition of ranges is the lowest on record, and probably the lowest for all time, averaging 55 per cent of normal, compared with 66 per cent in July, 74 per cent a year ago, and a ten-year average of 83.4 per cent. Condition of cattle and calves is also the poorest on record, being 68 per cent of normal, compared with 75 per cent

in July, 81 per cent a year ago, and a ten-year average of 88.2 per cent."

Details for the seventeen states follow:

**Arizona.**—Ranges very poor and water short, except in some northern areas; local rains have improved conditions in parts of south and southeast; hay crop short; sheep in fair flesh, but cattle thin.

**California.**—Feed and water shortage becoming more acute; drought situation bad in southern half of state; feed supplies fairly good in northern half; high ranges drying rapidly; beef cattle sold down very closely, and cattle population now relatively small, especially of stockers and feeders; most sheep in good condition.

**Colorado.**—Range and pastures poor on lower and eastern ranges, with shortage of stock water; mountain ranges and irrigated pastures good; hay and feed crops short; live stock in poor condition in dry sections, fair to good in

#### GREAT MEN EAT ROAST BEEF

Roast beef—all the presidents eat roast beef. So do the generals and princes. Whether they drank sarsaparilla or champagne, they all ate roast beef, according to a Washington dispatch printed in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Frances A. West, seventy, who for thirty-seven years has been a waiter on Pennsylvania Railroad trains operating between Washington and New York, knows. As he retired the other day, he looked back over thirty-seven years of service, wrinkled his coal-black brow, unfurled a huge set of white teeth, and told all about it.

He remembers President McKinley.

"President McKinley, suh, what you gonna have?"

And down through the ages comes the clarion cry:

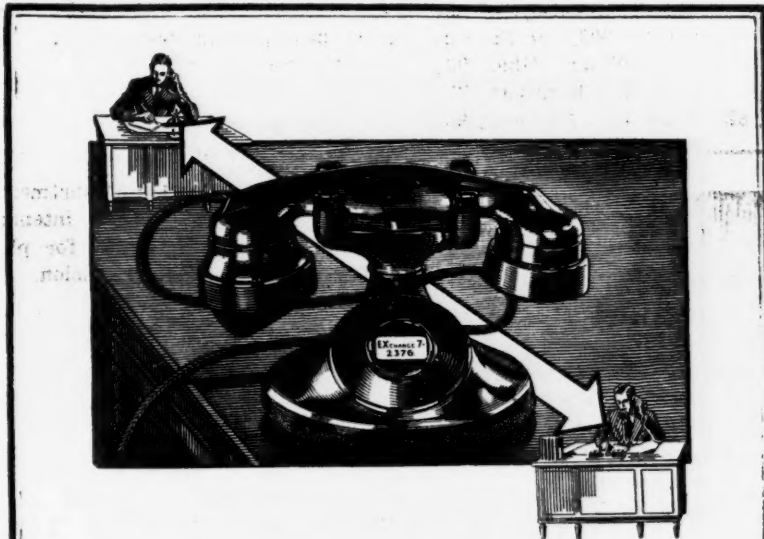
"Roast beef!"

For the last thirty-five years West has been on the Congressional Limited. He says:

"Yes, suh, all the presidents, princes, or big men—whenever they were in doubt what to eat, all of them says: 'Roast beef!'"

"I remembers Marshal Foch. He says 'roast beef,' too. Maybe that's all the English he knows."

"But there was a Chinese prince I didn't give roast beef. He had a car-load of his own personal food hitched on behind. That prince would sit up at the table and never move anything but his jaws. His food was spooned into his mouth, and all he did was chew. That's what I call high-class eatin'."



### The Shortest Distance Between Two Points

For buying, selling, speeding collections, straightening out misunderstandings or getting the answer to any question, telephone and talk directly with the person you want to reach.

Telephoning is next best to being there.



high areas; cattle and lamb-feeding will be reduced.

**Idaho.**—Lower and winter ranges have little feed and water, with poor prospects for winter; live stock holding up well, but shrinking in some areas.

**Kansas (western).**—Range pastures furnishing practically no feed, and later prospects extremely poor; stock water short; cattle in poor condition, and many being forced to market.

**Montana.**—Range feed good in western and higher areas, fair to poor in central sections, and very poor in east and southeast; stock and irrigation water short; hay and feed crops short east of mountains; live stock in critical condition in southeast.

**Nebraska (western).**—Ranges and pastures poor, with shortage of hay and other feed; stock water short; ranges overstocked, and cattle in poor condition in drier areas.

**Nevada.**—Ranges very poor, with serious water shortage; hay and feed crops very light; live stock in poor to fair condition, and a considerable number has been moved out.

**New Mexico.**—Range feed very poor; stock water short, except in northwest and higher areas; feed situation critical over much of state; live stock in poor to fair condition; calves and lambs doing very poorly.

**North Dakota.**—Live-stock and feed situation serious; practically no pastures, hay or other feed crops, and very little water; cattle in very poor condition, and many must be moved.

**Oklahoma.**—Pastures and hay and feed crops badly damaged by dry, hot weather; shortage of water; winter feed being used now; cattle in drier areas must be moved or die.

**Oregon.**—Pastures and hay crops good in west and parts of northeast; ranges and feed crops short in central and southeast sections, with shortage of water; live stock doing well, except in drier areas.

**South Dakota (western).**—Ranges and pastures poorest on record; stock water short; hay, grain, and feed crops very short; live stock in poor condition.

**Texas.**—Feed situation critical in northwest, west, and Edwards Plateau; other sections, except south, very dry; cattle thin and dying in drier areas; losses of sheep increasing, and lambs in poor shape; live stock must be moved unless rains come.

**Utah.**—Ranges, hay and feed crops very short; shortage of stock and irrigation water; higher ranges getting dry; live stock in poor condition, and much will be forced to move.

**Washington.**—Ranges fair to good, but getting dry; hay and feed crops good; live stock in good flesh.

**Wyoming.**—Low ranges poor, with shortage of water, while mountain ranges are fair to good; hay and feed crops short; live stock in poor flesh in dry areas, fair to good in higher sections; calves and lambs to be light in weight.

## RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS

### Kansas

Our grass is very dry and short, but cattle are doing fairly well. The feed crop is short, and, if rain does not come soon, very few cattle will be wintered. Over 3,000 cows have been sold to the government. No cattle sales have been made to others. Things look dark for the cowman. A hard winter this year will put us all on emergency relief.—RUSSELL T. BEATY, Lakin.

### Montana

People from all over America passing through this section of Montana say: "This is a paradise, compared with the rest of the country." We who reside here think it is about as dry and hot as ever known, although there is some grass in the foothills of the Absaroka Mountains. Water is getting scarce in parts. The Yellowstone River is the lowest on record. Live stock is in good flesh, carrying plenty of solid fat, owing to grass curing six weeks earlier than usual. The government and speculators are buying up all hay available. This may cause shortage, if the winter is hard.—JAMES A. HART, Livingston.

### South Dakota

I have been in South Dakota for the past fifty-four years, but this year is

the driest I have ever seen. Under irrigation, alfalfa is good; also sugar-beets and grain; but on dry-farming, crops are a failure. Judging from the way in which people are forced to sell their cattle to the government because they are not able to produce feed, I believe that 75 per cent will be taken away from this part of the state. I advise those who can keep some of their cattle to keep cows and steers. Then they may again be on the road to prosperity; but if they start on cows and calves, they will wind up at some boarding-house.—JOE RAIL, Arpan.

### Texas

I have lived in this section twenty-eight years, and have never seen the range in worse condition over west Texas and southern New Mexico than it is now. If it does not rain before September 15, we shall be compelled to sell down to the minimum. At present the government is the only buyer.—W. T. WIMMERLEY, Van Horn.

### Wyoming

Grass is all gone here. The government is buying most of the cattle, and what will be wintered in this part of the country will certainly be high-priced in the spring. Hay is selling at \$20, and cake at \$42.50.—JOHN P. COLLINS, Gillette.

## FEEDING RUSSIAN THISTLES

"Wherever there is land on which Russian thistles are growing, it is well to remember that this weed, if cut at the proper time, can be used to good advantage for hay, or even for silage," says Wallaces' Farmer. "In a year like this, when there is likely to be a shortage of feed, Russian thistles should not be allowed to go to waste.

"The time to cut them for hay is when they are in bloom, and before the spines form and harden. If the thistles are left standing until the spines have hardened, they have very little feed value, and, in fact, there is some danger in utilizing them as hay at that time. Cut the thistles and cure them in the wind-row—the same as alfalfa or clover. However, the North Dakota Experiment Station, which has had a good deal of experience with the thistles as a forage crop, says that the cured hay 'should have sufficient moisture at the time of stacking to cause sweating. Some recommend stacking the thistles immediately after cutting, especially if mixed with grain-stubble or straw. Russian thistles mixed with straw make a fairly satisfactory hay. The dry straw takes up some of the extra water in the thistles.'"

**Failed to Heed Danger Sign.**—"What's happened, George?" she asked her husband, who had got out of the car to investigate.

"Puncture," he said briefly.

"You ought to have been on the lookout for this," was the helpful remark. "You remember the guide warned you there was a fork in the road."—Tit-Bits.

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